Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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ORGAN DONATION WEEK SUPPORTED BY CHIEFS AT NHS TRUST

HEALTH chiefs in Sandwell are supporting Organ Donation Week as it was revealed that hundreds of people have died over the past decade, who were on the transplant list for the region.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is supporting the campaign and has made an appeal for staff and residents to talk about organ donation.

Over the last year 23 people in Sandwell and 99 people in Birmingham have received lifesaving or life changing transplants.

During the week which ends on Sunday, NHS Blood and Transplant, hospitals, charities and supporters of organ donation are encouraging people across the UK to talk about organ donation with their relatives and friends. This way, if anyone is ever able to be an organ donor, their family won't be left with making a difficult decision without knowing what people wanted.

NHS Blood and Transplant surveys show more than 80 per cent of people support organ donation but only around 49 per cent of people have ever talked about it. Research shows that women are 30 per cent more likely to start a conversation about organ donation than men.

Judith Martin, specialist nurse for Organ Donation, said: "We're proud to support this lifesaving appeal and it's really easy for everyone to take part – just have a chat.

"That chat might be the next time you sit down for a meal, when you are shopping or working, or when you are just driving in the car. If you want to be a donor, your family's support is still needed for donation to go ahead, even if you are on the NHS Organ Donor Register."

Families who agree to donate say it helps with their grief and that they feel enormous sense of pride at knowing their relative gave others the chance of a new beginning.

Anthony Clarkson, Assistant Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We are really grateful for Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust's support because hundreds of lives are being lost every year.

"This Organ Donation Week, tell your family you want to save lives. A few words now can make an extraordinary difference. It will also make things much easier for your family to make the right decision.

"If you are unsure about donation, please ask yourselves as a family; what would you do if one of you needed a transplant? Would you accept a life-saving organ? If you'd take an organ, shouldn't you be prepared to donate?"

There is a particular need for more black and Asian people to talk about donation.

Patients from these communities make up 29 per cent of the national transplant waiting list but they are less likely to agree to donate.

● Full story – Page 2

PARKS IN RUNNING FOR MAJOR AWARD

ELEVEN parks in Sandwell are in the running to win a national award and be crowned the country's best green space, with council bosses urging residents to submit their votes.

The green spaces, in Sandwell, are up for Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag People's Choice Award – which aims to find the best park in the UK. The parks already have Green Flag status, which is a benchmark accolade awarded to parks of good quality.

A total of 1,884 parks are in the running for the ward. The 10 most popular ones will be announced in October, before a final winner will be chosen.

Sandwell's contenders include a cemetery, a crematorium and volunteer-run allotment, Sandwell Valley Country Park and community-run Warley Woods.

Favourite

Leader of Sandwell Council councillor Steve Eling said: "Parks and green spaces are incredibly important to us in Sandwell. We're very proud to have 11 Green Flag-awarded parks and green spaces, which includes at least one park in each of our six towns.

"I hope people can spare a moment to vote for their favourite and help our parks and green spaces gain the wider recognition they deserve."

Councillor Richard Marshall, the council's cabinet member for leisure, added: "So many people have an input into keeping our parks and green spaces looking great – from council staff and the council's waste partner Serco, to the friends groups, community groups, allotment holders and volunteers.

By Jamie Brassington

"To get in the top 10 last year with Warley Woods was great and we'd love to do the same this year."

The nominated parks in Sandwell are: Barnford Park, Oldbury; Brunswick Park, Wednesbury; Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich; Dingley Road Allotments, Wednesbury; Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath; Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich; Sandwell Valley Crematorium, West Bromwich; Tipton Cemetery; Victoria Park, Smethwick; Victoria Park, Tipton and Warley Woods, Bearwood.

Warley Woods is a 100-acre community park and is nestled in the town of Smethwick. It features a mix of woodland, open meadow and a nine hole gold course. It is Grade 2 listed on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. Meanwhile Sandwell Valley Country Park is the largest green space in the borough.

To vote for a Sandwell site, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/greenflag and click on a park to go to the Green Flag website to cast a vote.

£4k raised for Katie's dream holiday

Katie Thomas with family and friends at the event at Allens Sports Bar

THOUSANDS of pounds was raised to give a dream holiday to a teenager who had to have her leg amputated to save her life. Katie Thomas, aged 16, lost her leg after being diagnosed with cancer this year. She is still undergoing chemotherapy.

Last week, cousin Joanne Thomas successfully organised the event at Allens Sports Bar, New Hall Street in Tipton, which raised £4,000.

Included was a raffle and an auction that had a number of prizes from various members of the community who wanted to do their part to raise money. Katie, an avid Harry Potter fan, always wanted to go The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios, Florida, and the charity night was aimed at making that possible.

As a result of the generous donations, Katie will not only get the opportunity to go to Universal Studios but also to Disney World Florida as well. The trip is set to happen after Katie undergoes her last cycle of chemotherapy treatments, potentially in 2019.

Katie's cousin Joanne thanked everyone who took part, with particular appreciation to Allens Sports Bar, who allowed the family to use the venue for free. A crowdfunding page is open until September 12 at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joanne-thomas-1.

COUNCIL

Visitors urged to buy bonfire night tickets

VISITORS to fireworks shows in Sandwell will be urged to buy tickets in advance in a bid to avoid the calamities of last year.

Families will be offered discounts as council bosses seek to stop as many people as possible buying tickets on the gate. It comes after Sandwell Council was criticised over its handling of Bonfire Night events last year. The authority was criticised by people who endured queues outside Dartmouth Park.

Councillor Richard Marshall, leisure boss at the council, said: "We are definitely having two events – one in Smethwick and one in West Bromwich. "There will be extra security but one of the big things we are doing is getting people to buy in advance."

Councillor Marshall said he believed it was possible for the advance ticket offer to be advertised widely enough to have the desired impact. He added: "It worked for our Christmas event last year when 95 per cent of people bought in advance."

At a display at Wednesbury's Brunswick Park in 2014 a stray rocket flew into the crowd, resulting in three people hurt. Then hundreds of people complained after being left in lengthy queues to get into Dartmouth Park last year.

ARREST

Armed police called as man shot in arm

A MAN was shot in Great Barr prompting armed police to arrive to help make an arrest. Paramedics were called to treat the victim who suffered a gunshot wound to his arm.

An armed response team joined officers in Aldridge Road at around 9am on Tuesday following the shooting.

They attended a house following reports a man had been injured.

A 39-year-old man was taken to hospital for treatment to the minor arm injury.

A pellet gun was recovered from the address and a 27-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of wounding.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

INSIDE

DIANA HAS NEW ROLE AS DUSTY

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Ex-Caparo staff get £250,000 payout

The Caparo plant in Oldbury

FORMER Caparo workers have been awarded a pay out of up to £250,000 after a plant went bust. A total of 65 former employees from the old Caparo Precision Tubes plant in Oldbury have been awarded a payout.

An employment tribunal ruled that the steel firm must shell out 90 days redundancy pay for the 75 workers.

When the steel products arm of the company folded in 2015, employees were ushered into a meeting. Half of the staff were told at random they would keep their jobs – the other half were told they were sacked and had an hour to leave the premises. But a tribunal has ruled the sacked workers should be paid 90 days back wages, which could amount to £250,000 between the 65 ex-workers.

All of the sacked staff were represented by the GMB union. Russell Farrington, GMB organiser, said: "This is a massive victory for GMB's Caparo members. Nothing can make up for the two years spent in limbo, or the disgraceful way they were sacked. At least they can now get on with their lives. The ruling once again underlines the importance of joining a trade union like GMB."

This is the second major ruling in as many days against Caparo, after more than 120 workers were awarded payouts after Caparo Atlas Fastenings Ltd closed in 2015. All 122 workers had been represented by the Unite union, which has fought the case for more than two years.

An employment tribunal ruled workers should get eight weeks pay compensation, an average of £2,500, as there should have been a 45-day consultation period from the company with staff and their union representatives, which did not happen. That is expected to cost Caparo around £305,000, on top of the £250,000 payouts for the Oldbury plant.

226 die while waiting for organ transplant

MORE than 200 people in Black Country and Staffordshire have died while waiting for an organ transplant in the last decade.

The shocking figure was revealed by NHS Blood and Transplant in a desperate bid to get more donors.

A total of 119 of those who died lived in Walsall, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Sandwell while 107 were from Staffordshire. Twenty nine died in Shropshire and the total number of lives lost in the West Midlands over the same period was 302.

Twenty five of the deaths were in Walsall, 35 in Wolverhampton, 24 in Dudley and 35 in Sandwell.

Now 129 more people face a similar risk while waiting for a donor in the Black Country and a further 105 are in the same situation in Staffordshire. But NHS bosses reckon hundreds of lifesaving transplants are being missed every year because families had not been made aware of what their relatives wishes were.

Unnecessarily

They believe many people think it 'safer' to say no to a donation request on behalf of another person when they really do not know what the person thought about the issue.

Anthony Clarkson, Assistant Director of Organ Donation and Transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant, which revealed the statistics at the start of Organ Donation Week, said: "It is a tragedy that people are dying unnecessarily waiting for transplants. This week tell your family you want to save lives. A few words now can make an extraordinary difference. If you want to save lives don't leave it too late to talk to your family. In the West Midlands and Staffordshire there are over a million people on the NHS Organ Donor Register."

There is a particular need for black and Asian donors in the West Midlands with 186 black or Asian people from the West Midlands currently waiting for a transplant while in Staffordshire the figure is 22.

Picture perfect view of viaduct work

The amazing view under the M5 with the reflection of the intricate scaffolding work from the canal

IS it a 'magic eye' picture? Is it modern art? This mind-boggling shot is actually taken from just a few miles away – after refocusing, you may recognise it as the Oldbury Viaduct between junctions 1 and 2 of the M5.

This photograph was taken by Phil Wild, a 64-year-old amateur photographer. Based in Lower Gornal, Mr Wild has been a keen photographer for all his life but since his retirement it has turned into a full-time hobby. He uses a Canon EOS 650 camera and 70-200mm lens, which he bought in department store John Lewis five years ago. His inspiration for the photograph was that he wanted to show people what was going on inside the viaduct and the lighting on Bank Holiday Sunday this year allowed him to do that. He said: "One of my favourite elements was the line of the canal leading you to the centre of the photograph."

The works are likely to take around a year to complete and are considered essential to repair the crumbling viaduct. At present there is a 'contraflow' system in place with two narrow lanes moving in opposite directions are in operation.

The Oldbury Viaduct was constructed from concrete in the late 1960s and usually transports 120,000 vehicles a day. As the number of vehicles increased, so did the strain on the viaduct. The project is set to be the largest concrete repair project undertaken in the UK.

New blood needed for Aladdin at rep theatre

A LONG-RUNNING theatre group is looking for new talent to take part in this year's panto.

Oldbury Rep want to hear from people aged 18-30 to take part in Aladdin and further productions next year. No experience is required, just enthusiasm, but candidates must be over school leaving age. Members put on about seven shows a year, although recruits do not need to get involved in all of them.

Lisa Smith, new members' secretary, said: "New recruits can pick and chose how many or which shows they would like to be involved in – we're completely relaxed about that. If they are completely inexperienced, we would guide them and try to teach them whilst they are in our rehearsals.

"We rehearse three nights a week – usually Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays for about six to eight weeks before the show. This may sound intense but it is only a short time. We have a lot of laughs during our rehearsals. For anyone who is a little nervous, then being part of a pantomime ensemble or chorus is the ideal thing to start them off. "

Anyone interested is invited to turn up on any of the three evenings, from 7.30pm onwards, at the Barlow Theatre, Spring Walk, Langley, Oldbury.

Hospice chooses new chairman

BIRMINGHAM St Mary's Hospice, which provides vital care to families living with terminal illness in Sandwell, has appointed Niels de Vos, chief executive at UK Athletics, as its new chairman of trustees.

Niels de Vos

He joined the hospice board as chairman elect on Friday, ahead of taking up the role in November.

Mr de Vos, who was born in the West Midlands and attended King Edward VI School in Edgbaston, has been chief executive at UK Athletics for 10 years.

At Birmingham St Mary's he will play a crucial role in delivering the charity's 'Hospice Care For All' strategy. The ambitious four-year-plan aims to ensure that the best hospice care is available for all individuals, families and carers across Birmingham and Sandwell. "As a proud Brummie who is dedicated to improving the local community, I feel incredibly humbled to have been asked to chair the board of trustees," said Mr de Vos.

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Inmates may face longer in jail after disruption

PRISONERS behind the latest disturbance at HMP Birmingham will be referred to the police and could spend longer behind bars, prison chiefs have warned.

Staff at the privately-run jail, one of the biggest in the country, were involved in a stand-off with inmates lasting almost seven hours following unrest there on Sunday, when a number of prisoners refused to return to their cells at the end of the evening.

G4S, which runs the jail, said the incident started at around 5pm and was brought to a safe conclusion at around 11.45pm.

An investigation into the disorder, which was confined to one wing, has been launched. A spokesperson said specially-trained prison staff managed to successfully resolve the stand-off without any injuries to guards or prisoners. He added: "We do not tolerate violence in our prisons, and are clear that those responsible will be referred to the police and could spend longer behind bars."

It was the second disorder in nine months at the jail. In December, hundreds of prisoners went on the rampage for 12 hours in what was described as the worst prison riot since Strangeways in 1990.

At the time, there were reports of prisoners setting fire to stairwells, breaking a security chain and destroying paper records.

MP in call over donation issues

JOHN Spellar has called on his families across the region to talk about the crucial issue of organ donation in a bid to save lives.

The Labour MP for Warley is supporting Organ Donation Week, during which NHS blood and transplant hospitals, charities and supporters of organ donation are encouraging people to discuss organ donation with their relatives and friends.

He says that nearly 19,000 people in Warley are on the NHS organ donor register, but hundreds of lifesaving transplants are being missed around the country every year because families don't know what their relatives wanted.

Mr Spellar said: "I'm proud to support this lifesaving appeal."

Delays on M42

MOTORISTS faced delays following a crash on the M42 near Birmingham Airport. Traffic was stopped on the northbound carriageway following the accident on the afternoon of Friday August 25

Goodyear plant closure marks end of era

Former employees Cyril Barrett, Mark

GOODYEAR finally closed the curtain on nearly 90 years of manufacturing – marking the end of an era for the iconic Black Country plant.

The tyre-making factory was opened in 1927 and was on its way to employing more than 6,500 people at its peak in the early 1980s. But last Thursday, 12 workers employed to help during the 'closing down period' of the iconic Bushbury Lane site arrived for work last Thursday at 6.30am – by noon the gates were shut for good.

Plant protection workers Roger Simpson, aged 64, from Cannock, Steve Corbett, 61, from Shifnal, and Ray Homer, 60, from Claregate, welcomed the last shift workers, shaking hands and wishing them well. The three friends have clocked up a combined total of 97 years at the factory. Former staff members also made their way to the site to mark the end of an era, and a T-shirt with 'Bad Year' printed on the front was left on the entrance gates. Wayne Devaney, of Wednesfield, who worked at the plant for 28 years alongside his late father Michael and sister Bernadette, arrived with a scrapbook of memories and photographs. The 55-year-old, who left in January 2016, said: "It's totally devastating. It was a great place to work and everybody worked so hard."

Cyril Barratt, chairman of the Unite branch at Goodyear, said: "I am absolutely gutted that the place has closed. It feels like a break up of a family." In a statement, Goodyear bosses said: "We are very grateful to our associates for their continued support and professionalism during the closure of the plant."

Boy dies after being hit by lorry near to island

AN 11-year-old boy has died after being hit by a lorry.

Kyle Bastable, who is also known as Joe by relatives, was hit by a DPD lorry close to the Shell garage near Birchley Island in Oldbury. The youngster was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver of the DPD lorry involved in the incident off Wolverhampton Road is helping police with their enquiries. West Midlands Police said it was called at around 10pm on Thursday to reports that a pedestrian had been struck by a lorry near to the Birchley Park Service Station.

Kyle Bastable

The road was shut for more than seven hours while initial investigations were carried out. A second boy was assessed at the scene by paramedics before being left in the care of his parents.

A spokesman said: "We can confirm that a DPD vehicle was involved in a fatal accident at the Birchley Island roundabout in Oldbury and that we are currently helping the emergency services with their investigation.

"Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of the young boy involved."

Det Sgt Paul Hughes, from West Midlands Police's Collision Investigation Unit, said: "This is a very busy junction and we are keen to hear from anybody who was in the area at the time and may have witnessed the collision.

"We have specially-trained officers supporting the boy's family."

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman added: "On arrival at the scene, crews discovered a young boy with serious injuries following the collision. Unfortunately, it quickly became apparent that nothing could be done to save him and he was confirmed deceased.

"A second boy was assessed at the scene before being left in the care of his parents."

The crossing where Kyle tragically lost his life has been described as 'dangerous' by those who knew it.

Showers but stellar acts shine

Amy MacDonald proves to be a hit at the Moseley Folk Festival

Seth Lakeman knocks out the tunes

TOP folk acts wowed crowds at a festival in Birmingham– and even the sudden arrival of some autumnal weather didn't spoil the party, writes REBECCA STANLEY.

The three-day Moseley Folk Festival in Birmingham was headlined by Amy Macdonald, Jose Gonzalez and Laura Marling.

After bathing in sunshine on the festival's first two days, visitors were more likely to have bathed in puddles on Sunday – but the feelgood factor at the event wasn't dampened by the inclement conditions.

Macdonald had rocked out on the festival's first night, even performing a raucous cover of Bruce Springsteen's 'Dancing in the Dark'. Fans hailed her set as 'stellar' and 'fabulous'.

Sunday headliner Laura Marling took to the stage, praising the crowd for sticking around despite the weather, saying: "You're very resilient, with all of your macs."

There wasn't much interaction from the songstress after that.

The worst of the weather was out of the way by the time of Marling's set. It had lashed it down from about 5.30pm before easing off – but stayed pretty cold. And sadly her atmospheric ballads didn't quite seem in place with the chilly conditions. .

Meanwhile other Sunday highlights included Kate Rusby, who played when the weather was at its worst. She sandwiched her songs with slices of Yorkshire wit to keep the crowd's spirits up.

Idlewild frontman Roddy Woomble's folksy solo set showed the variety of the one-time young punk's songwriting. The event itself was superbly organised, with plenty of space for people to sit down if they wanted and a decent selection of food stalls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Family in tribute to hit-run victim

THE family of a taxi driver killed in a hit-and-run have paid tribute to their 'shining light'.

Police have named Mohammed Shezad as the 47-year-old man struck in City Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, at 1.50am last Tuesday. He had been standing next to his car.

The car that hit him failed to stop at the scene. A statement released on behalf of his family said: "Mohammed was a shining light on everyone who knew him." He was further described as 'a loving father, devoted husband and best friend to everyone'. Police are appealing to trace a dark coloured people carrier car.

Manor revisits War of Roses

A HISTORY group will offer visitors an insight into the Wars of the Roses at a Black Country venue.

The Manor House Museum in West Bromwich will host historical interpretation group Buckingham's Retinue this Saturday and Sunday.

There will be activities for visitors to see and do well as get involved with, including joining in with music and dance of the period and learning at first-hand about medieval weapons, pastimes, and medicine. For more information visit sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums or call 0121 588 2985.

Slimming group to host fundraiser

SLIMMING World holds a family day to help raise money for Cancer Research UK on September 10 at St Peter's Church Hall, Whitehall Road, in Greets Green, West Bromwich.

It will start at 12.30pm. There will be a tombola, a hula hoop competition, plus a chance for people to show off dance skills and coordination with free Zumba sessions.

After the Zumba there will be a display from a dance school. Any Slimming World member who would like to take part can ask their consultant for a sponsor form.

Duo Bars and Melody postpone Brum gig

BRITAIN'S Got Talent contestants Bars and Melody have postponed their Birmingham show.

The duo, made up of Leondre 'Bars' Devries and Charlie 'Melody' Lenehan, were due to play the O2 Academy on Sunday, October 22.

The pair will now play the city centre venue on Saturday, February 10. They came third in the 2014 contest after judge Simon Cowell hit the golden buzzer following their audition.

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COUNTY NEWS

£7.3bn cost if you stick with Big Six

UK households have forked out an extra £7.3 billion over the last five years by remaining customers of the Big Six energy firms, a new report shows.

Ofgem data compiled by energy provider Bulb found that families who held accounts with the biggest firms – including British Gas, SSE, E.ON, Npower, EDF and Scottish Power – for at least five years paid out an average £853 more than they needed to over the period.

The report explained that while Big Six firms tend to offer cheaper fixed tariffs in order to "entice" new customers, those tariffs tend to expire within one to two years.

Feeling the heat at chilli festival

THE Birmingham Chilli Festival is back, at Brindleyplace on September 16. There will be the annual chilli themed market along with nerve-wracking challenges, physical activities and of course, plenty of spice.

This year, the festival will be raising the stakes with a 100ft forward-facing abseil from number 4 Brindleyplace to raise funds for one of their 2017 charity partners, Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity.

The festival will take place between 11am and 7pm in Central Square. To find out more visit www.brindleyplace.com

Warning to car trip dog owners

MORE than half of dog owners in the West Midlands could be breaking the law while driving with their pet.

A total of 53 per cent of dog owners in the region are unaware that their pet should be restrained.

The figures have been released as part of a campaign by the Dogs Trust called The Houndway Code. The results show that 44 per cent of owners do not restrain their dogs with a harness and a quarter admitted to finding them a distraction.

Comic O'Grady is top of pooch list

COMEDIAN Paul O'Grady has been voted the West Midlands' favourite dog-loving celebrity.

The presenter of Blind Date came ahead of Tom Hardy and The Queen in the survey run by DogBuddy.com.

He said: "I am really flattered when up against such tough competition. I used to take my dog Buster to the pub all the time as he was handy for getting me home at closing time!"

Man jailed for four-month theft spree

A BURGLAR who swiped mobile phones from a group of teenagers during a four-month offending spree has been locked up. Sandwell criminal Simon Wilkinson committed a string of burglaries in the region between March and July.

The 42-year-old's offending included snatching nine mobile phones from the group of youths at an Oldbury leisure centre. Wilkinson, of Coombe Hill, Cradley Heath, strolled into Portway Lifestyle Centre before stealing the phones, police confirmed. The offence, which took place in March, saw the perpetrator target teenagers who had come together to watch a football match.

Officers revealed Wilkinson also managed to make off with a handbag when he returned to the leisure centre two months later. He entered the Newbury Lane venue before stealing a handbag from the staff room as he walked out.

Wilkinson was caught by police when officers seized CCTV footage from the leisure centre.

This included a burglary in Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis – which was committed while he was on bail.

Officers said the footage also enabled police to link Wilkinson to the incidents at the Portway Lifestyle Centre.

The criminal, who failed to answer bail, was later discovered by police and connected to a further burglary in Stuart Road, Rowley Regis. He was also linked to an attempted burglary and theft in Lordswood Road, Harborne. Wilkinson was jailed for six years and four months at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

CCTV may be brought in to protect cabbies

By Lewis Cox

TAXI drivers in Sandwell could be forced to have CCTV fitted in their cabs in a bid to protect them and passengers.

Sandwell Council is considering introducing a mandatory CCTV policy that would require taxi drivers to have cameras installed in their vehicles.

It follows recommendations for cameras in taxis in a report into child sexual exploitation in Rotherham, where attacks took place in cabs.

A meeting of the cabinet on Wednesday heard the move could be brought in by next June following a review of the local authority's private hire and Hackney carriage licensing policy.

Though a mandatory CCTC policy was not part of those plans, the inclusion of cameras in Hackney carriages has been put forward for future recommendation to the cabinet next year.

Prevention

CCTV may act as a deterrent to prevent offences committed inside such vehicles. While also key for prevention, the cameras would also play a key role in identifying any offenders or witnesses in any offences. It was also stated that having recording equipment installed could prevent the non-payment of fares.

Cabinet member for public health and protection Councillor Elaine Costigan said: "We're planning a full consultation with taxi operators and drivers on using CCTV systems in vehicles and a report will be presented to cabinet in June next year."

Ant Smith, an operator at A1 Sandwell and Adelphi Cars Ltd in West Bromwich, said: "I think it is a good idea, but if someone is getting in the taxi drunk it will not stop them misbehaving."

Grants given to two future sporting stars

Future sporting stars of Sandwell, Leo Handy, left, and Christopher Gardner, right, with Councillor Marshall

TWO future sporting stars have picked up grants from a council to help them fulfil their dreams.

Christopher Gardner, aged 17, and 13-year-old Leo Handy were presented with £500 each by Sandwell's cabinet member for leisure Richard Marshall.

Chris, from Tividale, aims to become a hockey international and Leo is working towards becoming a member of the Great Britain weightlifting squad.

Councillor Marshall said: "We know what sacrifices young people have to make to reach the top in any sport – and the sacrifices their families make too in terms of travelling, accommodation and dedicating their own time. So even though it's Chris and Leo who we are supporting, I'm also very aware of the support they get from their families and we want to help through our 'Gifted and Talented' grant scheme." Leo, from Oldbury, is already a multiple champion having won the British Schools Olympic Weightlifting competition for the past three years. He recently achieved two personal bests whilst competing at a competition in Derbyshire – lifting 37kg in the snatch and 50kg in the clean and jerk.

And his aim is to become a member of the Great Britain squad.

Rising hockey star Chris has already been selected to play in the Great Britain Colleges hockey team.

The 17-year-old has also played for the Ireland under-18 national team and hopes to continue developing and establish himself as an international player.

Anyone living in the borough and competing at top level should visit sandwell.gov.uk/giftedandtalented

Probe starts after wrong patient in procedure

HEALTH chiefs in Sandwell have launched an investigation after a procedure was carried out on the wrong patient.

The error at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust saw the wrong person have a biopsy on their cheek – in what is classed as a 'never event'.

Three hospital staff could be censured for the error involving a male patient who does not speak English as a first language.

Dermatology staff involved in the error failed to follow 'positive patient identification' checks to ensure the patient was the right person set to undergo the procedure, chiefs have admitted in the report.

They have subsequently removed stitches from his cheek.

The report said: "In this incident neither of the two patients had the same or similar identifiers except their middle name."

Bosses have begun an internal probe and apologised to the man for the mistake.

Councillor Bob Lloyd, who sits on Sandwell Council's health scrutiny board, said he was concerned to hear of the incident.

He said: "This is worrying – never events are called that because they should never happen.

"The idea is there are a number of procedures for whatever they're doing that makes it impossible for these things to happen.

"Obviously people do make mistakes, but I'm not sure how they could carry out a procedure on the wrong person or mix people up.

"You can't defend a never event."

Baths to close for five weeks

SWIMMING pools at a Sandwell leisure centre will close for five weeks for essential maintenance work to take place.

The work will be carried out at Smethwick Leisure Centre, on Thimblemill Road, to bring the facilities up to scratch.

Sandwell Council will be leading the project which begins on September 23.

Council bosses have welcomed the move at the site, which is considered one of the borough's oldest sports facilities. Extra swimming classes will be on at Langley Swimming Centre, in Vicarage Road, Oldbury.

But the work does not mean the leisure centre will close entirely.

Its other existing facilities, like the gym, dance studio, sauna and steam facilities will remain open.

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Park fun run ends with inflatable obstacles

A UNIQUE Subway 5K fun run will be heading to Birmingham. It will be the last of nine events taking place throughout the UK from May to September.

The series will again run in partnership with the national charity Heart Research UK, and is part of the Subway brand's efforts to encourage families to live healthier and more active lifestyles together.

Families in the Birmingham region can join in on the fun at Cannon Hill Park on September 24, from noon.

All ages and levels of running expertise are invited to participate. Runners are encouraged to tackle a giant inflatable course, inspired by the Subway menu. Those not wishing to bounce through to the finish line can follow the traditional 5K route.

A family village, open from 10.30am to 2pm, will include face painting, music, more inflatables for children and games. Children under 12 years old can participate for free and entry into the run costs £7 for anyone everyone else who registers in advance online. Heart Research UK is a visionary charity founded in 1967 by Mr David Watson, a working heart surgeon, who realised that patients were dying unnecessarily because of the lack of research into heart disease, especially surgical techniques.

For further information about the fun runs go to heartresearch.org.uk

Bus group boost with £1m deal

PUBLIC transport business Rotala has agreed to buy a bus and minibus services business from Go Goodwins (Coaches) for £692,500.

The firm, based in Tividale, has a fleet of 18 buses and a freehold property in Manchester, along with Transport for Greater Manchester bus service contracts.

The acquisition is expected to potentially double Rotala's bus capacity, and allow the company to significantly grow its operations in the Manchester area.

The total cost of the deal, including working capital and capital expenditure, is expected to be around £1 million. Rotala said it should generate £2m in sales and £400,000 gross profit in the first full year.

Brum improv time

A FESTIVAL for improvisation experts is returning next month. The Birmingham Improvisation Festival will last for six days this year, from October 23 to 29. For details, visit www.birminghamimprovfestival.com

Dreams, trophies and Frank's fiercest foe

Tony Wilson, Frank, Gareth Woodberry

HE was a fierce fighter with huge punching power – but in appearance he is warm, friendly and self-effacing.

Former world boxing champion Frank Bruno MBE spoke with great modesty before a packed evening in the Black Country, which helped raise money for a Walsall sports foundation.

At the Ramada Park Hall Hotel, he told the 150 guests of his triumphs, including defeating Oliver McCall to win the WBC title, to his struggles with mental health. The 55-year-old answered questions from compere comedian Jed Stone for more than an hour at the event on Thursday night. He said it was always his dream to become a champion boxer, having turned professional at the age of 21 in 1982, and then achieving 21 straight knock-outs.

And following success winning the European Heavyweight Title he beat South African Gerrie Coetzee and veteran Joe Bugner. He then faced Mike Tyson for the WBC title. Asked by Mr Stone why he did not finish Tyson off despite appearing to be on top during the fight in 1989, he replied: "I tried to finish him, but all I did was make him more angry. He was the fiercest fighter I ever faced."

After a loss against Lennox Lewis for the title again, Bruno had another chance, this time against Oliver McCall. He beat the American on points.

He said: "To be a world champion was my dream since being a boy when I used to watch my hero Muhammad Ali."An auction was also held raising money for Walsall-based Nigel Harris Sports Foundation. It included a replica of Bruno's WBC title belt, which went for £3,400.

Controversial HMO plan for warehouse is backed

A CONTROVERSIAL plan to turn a warehouse into shared housing has been backed by planning bosses despite concerns from police and residents.

Residents had hoped to block a plan to convert the building, in Pennant Road, Cradley Heath, into a house in multiple occupation (HMO) but look to be facing defeat after it was recommended for approval.

Police also objected to the scheme due to concerns over parking. Residents said they were not informed what sort of accommodation would be offered, while there were also concerns over parking and increased noise. Fifteen objections were submitted by residents.

The proposal submitted by Krundil Developments would see to a home with 21 rooms created. In documents released this week, it says that councillors have now carried out a site visit to the warehouse to decide whether it should be allowed to be turned into shared housing.

Christine Wakeman, who has lived in Pennant Road for 40 years, said she was concerned people staying in the three-storey building could be able to see into her home.

The 65-year-old said: "Nobody has told us anything. They could look right into my bedroom and there is nowhere to park on the road."

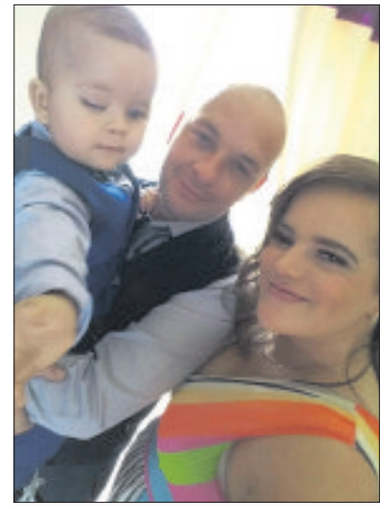
However, committee documents state that the HMO will 'not significantly harm' the area.

It reads: "I am of the opinion that the proposed HMO is acceptable as it will provide suitable living accommodation which will not significantly harm the amenities of neighbouring residential property." In 2015 plans were submitted for a similar HMO, which was set to house 22 occupants, but was refused on the basis of lack of parking, minimal refuse areas and being too close to another home.

An appeal was launched, but dismissed by planning officers. In a design and access statement for the build, it reads: "The proposal aim is to take an existing unoccupied building and redevelop to provide a suitable level of habitable accommodation."

Albion star pledges £3k for Caleb

West Brom star James McClean



Caleb with his parents Jacqueline and Darran

ALBION star James McClean has donated thousands of pounds to help a one-year-old battling cancer.

McClean, aged 28, has donated £3,000 to Caleb Williamson, who has been battling an aggressive eye cancer since he was born.

He made the donation on Friday, just a day before he helped Ireland earn a 1-1 draw with Georgia in Tbilisi.

Seventeen-month-year-old Caleb has been travelling from Derry, Ireland, where McClean was born, to a hospital in Dublin every three weeks for examinations since he was just three days old. Aged nine weeks, he was diagnosed with Retinablastoma, a rare form of cancer that rapidly develops from the cells of a retina. He began six rounds of chemotherapy a week later in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital, but got sepsis after his first round and almost died.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sion tipped to try again for mayor

WEST Midlands Labour MEP Sion Simon is being tipped to run again for West Midlands Mayor.

The ex-Birmingham MP has been advertising for a press secretary amid rumours that he wants to challenge Tory Mayor Andy Street for the role again in the 2020 election.

Mr Simon lost to Mr Street in the race to become the first West Midlands Mayor in May.

It was a major shock with Labour expected to triumph in an area where it has widespread support. Since the election Mr Simon has been critical of the Conservative mayor, describing his first 100 days as a 'failure'.

Watson in tribute to Scottish leader

DEPUTY Labour leader Tom Watson has paid tribute to Kezia Dugdale after she stood down as the leader of Scottish Labour.

Mr Watson, MP for West Bromwich East, said Ms Dugdale had provided 'selfless service'. She announced her resignation last Tuesday after spending two years trying to revitalise Labour's fortunes north of the border after almost being wiped out in 2015.

Mr Watson said on Twitter: "Thank you @kezdugdale. You were a great leader in difficult times. We are all grateful for your selfless service. "

Passport service starts in Sandwell

A NEW passport service is being offered at Sandwell's Register Office.

The new passport return service will be for European Economic Union and Swiss nationals applying to live and work in the UK. Nationals can now have their passports verified and copied and sent to the Home Office.

No appointment is necessary but people using the service need to visit the Register Office within five days of submitting their online form. For more information visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/registeroffice or call 0121 368 1188.

Canalside scheme gets green light

PLANS have been approved by Birmingham City Council for the Newhall Square canalside development in the city's Jewellery Quarter.

It consists of more than 200 residential properties and a public square surrounded by new retail units.

The scheme occupies the former site of the Elkington & Co electroplating works and subsequently Birmingham Museum of Science and Industry on Newhall Street and Charlotte Street.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Excellent strategy to avoid core problems

GREAT news. Thanks to the excellent policies of local government, the Black Country's main town centres are doing exceptionally well. This is in no small part down to the excellent Black Country Core Strategy drawn up in 2011.

That's exactly what I thought when I walked through Dudley over the weekend, and surveyed the vast array of huge, glossy stores which have flocked to the town over the past six years. All those exciting payday lenders and charity shops.

We know our towns are thriving, because it says so in the consultation document for the Black Country Core Strategy. Yep, it's now time for the great and the good to ask for our vote of confidence, so they can give us more of the same.

Actually, it didn't say Dudley was thriving. Because if you read the fine print of the document – and the councils behind it know that most of us won't – the authors came up with a rather novel way of dealing with Dudley's decline. By redefining a town centre.

Of course, they redefined the Black Country years ago. And while I doubt whether many people feel any great affinity with a Black Country defined by 1970s local authority boundaries, at least we know what they mean.

However, the way that they redefined the term "town centre" is really quite special. Shortly before the publication of their vision, the signs for Brierley Hill town centre were quietly moved. Not just a few yards, but nearly a mile, so they are around the perimeter of the Merry Hill centre. The plan then redefined Merry Hill as being one of the "four strategic town centres for the Black Country", and quietly erased Dudley from the map. And that is the basis of the claim that our "main town centres" are thriving.

If you do want to have your say, consultation closes on Friday, although local councils also have their own definition of "consultation": "The exercise of telling people what they should be thinking, and then setting up a mechanism where only those who support it will reply."

Helpfully, they have decided to cut through the gobbledegook by providing a rather patronising questionnaire for "non-experts", which is filled with platitudes and loaded questions like: "Do you think people's health and wellbeing should be a key issue?" Dunno, can I have a few extra days to think about it?

It also asks: "Should we focus the growth of shopping, leisure and commercial development into our main town centres?" Depends how you define a town centre, doesn't it?

Ed and Geoff pitch in with colourful standpoints

Tom Burke – A number of issues with his role in the latest thriller from the Beeb

Hellboy and back – Ed Skrein, who found things were not all white in the latest superhero reboot

Geoffrey Boycott – did he get caught out making an off-colour comment?

Taking Strike at new TV thriller's realism

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

DRIVERLESS Lorries to Hit British Roads (headline this week). Precisely. And what else will they hit?

I WAS tempted by one of the ice-cream sweets on offer at a restaurant because it was "garnished with a malted ball." A malted ball? What exotic, sophisticated and perfectly crafted amuse-bouche might this be? Turned out to be a Malteser.

TWO questions hang over the Beeb's latest private-eye drama, Strike. Firstly, would it ever have made it into production if the "Robert Galbraith" who wrote the original novels had not been revealed as one J K Rowling? I doubt it. Secondly, why on earth is everyone so keen to chat to the private detective, Cormoran Strike? Why would the investigating police officer even deign to meet Strike? Why would the murdered woman's driver blab? Why would the concierge at her flat take Strike on a guided tour of the exclusive apartments, including the residents' swimming pool – surely a sacking offence? Take it from me, as one who spent a career trying to get people to talk about awkward issues, it is never that easy.

I SUGGESTED that new laws are needed to make pedestrians behave safely. It turns out to be an ancient argument. Back in 1942, the Autocar Handbook commented on "jay walking" laws in force in parts of Europe. But in Britain "much opposition has come from those who hold the ancient rights of the walker to be inviolable." Nothing has changed. In the name of our ancient liberties we are free to walk – and free to die.

SOME scientists believe dementia could be avoided by adding lithium to our tap water. So let me be the first to alert you to the Great Lithium Conspiracy. It is, of course, a wicked plan concocted by the Illuminati, the shadowy figures who really control this planet, to introduce a sinister chemical into our water to take us over by controlling our minds and polluting our precious bodily fluids. It is part of their Master Plan which also involved kidnapping Elvis, assassinating John Lennon, faking the moon landings and murdering Princess Di (because she knew about the lithium). Do not touch a drop of lithiumised water without first wrapping your head in aluminium foil. Pass it on before they get you, too.

I ADMIT that until this week I had never heard of Ed Skrein. I admit, too, that I had to read reports of his "whitewash" campaign several times before understanding what he was banging on about. In a nutshell, Mr Skrein, an actor, was expected to play Major Ben Daimo in a new film, Hellboy: Rise of the Blood Queen. Then he discovered that in the original Hellboy comics, Daimo (an entirely fictitious character) was of mixed-Asian heritage. After some protests from Asian activists, Skrein turned down the job, declaring: "I must do what I feel is right." For doing so, Skrein is a right-on hero. The Guardian hails his "inspiring protest against the invisibility of Asian people in the media." But the contradictions are endless. How, for example, does Skrein's decision fit in with the modern and thoroughly enlightened trend for colour-blind casting? If we can't have a white Major Daimo, how can we even discuss Idris Elba becoming the first black James Bond? As for the alleged "invisibility of Asian people in the media," what about Bollywood and martial-arts movies which are full of Indian and Chinese stars? Would Ed Skrein turn down the part of Hamlet on the grounds that he is not Danish? If not, why not?

IF you need evidence that our civilisation is in decline, look no further than the bank-holiday queues for cut-price Prosecco at some Lidl branches which descended into ugliness when stocks ran out. "My weekend is ruined," howled one hysterical Twitter user facing the unspeakable horror of having to pay £5.79 for a bottle of bubbly instead of the £3.33 offer. Ruination is not what it used to be.

GEOFF Boycott, a 76-year-old Yorkshireman, will keep his cricket commentating job despite his ill judged comment that the only way for him to get a knighthood would be to 'black me face'. Some accused him of racism for his remark but we should not ignore Boycott's own ethnicity. As 76-year-old Yorkshiremen go, he is a soft old woolly liberal.

TALKING POINT

Time for letting the world see real you

I MET up with a friend recently – one I have known for years and have spent many a pleasant evening over dinner catching up with all her latest family news. I was only too aware of all the problems she had had to face over the past weeks/months but did not feel that I should ask in case it upset her.

So I simply said: "How are things?' To which she replied with a smile on her face, "Just fine thanks" and we moved on. I knew that things were anything but fine but it's amazing how many people spend their lives doing that – painting a smile on their face and pretending everything is all right. And they do say that a problem shared and all that. . .

Maybe sometimes the problems are too personal and too difficult to talk about, and I understand that, but trying to stifle how they feel must surely make it harder to deal with and lead to even more stress.

We are all guilty to a certain extent. How many times at work have people greeted you with a cheery smile and said: "You Ok?" for you to reply "Yes thanks". Many times I am sure they really don't want to hear how you actually feel. It is just a greeting not an actual question. Perhaps if you turned round and said: "Well actually I feel sh**." they would run a mile. Stress is such a big problem these days and can lead to not eating properly and lack of sleep which add to health worries. In many cases depression is ignored, or seen as a stigma, and so the person is left to deal with it alone.

But these days, with the suicide rate in young people on the rise, there are initiatives that can help. And members of the Royal Family are leading the way.

Prince Harry recently revealed he "shut down all his emotions" for two decades after losing his mother Princess Diana. Harry admitted he sought therapy and took up boxing to combat frustration. Twenty years on and he finally found the strength to open up about the struggles the two brothers faced following their mother's death.

They, along with the Duchess of Cambridge, have teamed up for the Heads Together campaign, which works to dispel the stigma surrounding mental health.

Bringing people together in similar situations to talk about their problems means they do not feel that they have to face them alone. They can learn from people who may have been through similar difficulties how better to cope so that that the smiles people see are not false and they don't feel so alone. Surely it's worth a try.

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I'm proud to be Brexiter, despite the stick

THOSE of us who voted to leave the EU in last year's referendum have had a good deal of stick from those who voted to remain.

Present and past politicians (there are hundreds of them) from all the major parties, whose policies before June 2016 were firmly pro-EU, have been particularly keen to condemn us.

We Brexiters are portrayed by Remainers as being racist halfwits. I am not a racist, indeed I am ashamed of our Government's inadequate response to the plight of the poor souls who have fled the living hells in the Middle East and North Africa. Nor am I a halfwit. I take my inspiration from the American colonists of the late 18th century whose motto was 'taxation without representation is tyranny'.

We UK taxpayers pay taxes to the EU, but are powerless to bring about reform of this oversized, overblown, bureaucratic and possibly corrupt entity via the ballot box. And don't tell me that my vote in elections to the European Parliament constitutes my representation.

I don't know how MEPs pass on their time (mainly packing for their next move from Strasbourg to Brussels or vice versa, I wouldn't be surprised) but what they don't do is bring about long-overdue reform. The June 2016 referendum gave us the only chance (apart from voting UKIP) to protest about this state of affairs.

ALAN DAVIS
Darlaston

We didn't fall off the edge then

I WAKE up every day and thankfully find that I'm not skewered on jagged rocks.

Okay so Brexit has not yet been accomplished and if the Remoaners and the traitorous band of EU addicts such as Blair have their way, it might never happen. Nevertheless, legend had it that by now we would have all ended up at the bottom of a 90 feet deep cliff (remember the Fear Factor propaganda? "We are sleepwalking into falling off a cliff")

The devaluation of the pound (it has been overvalued for years) may have added to inflation and made those continental holidays more expensive but exports are booming as a result.

As far as I'm concerned, it's not the EU we have to fear for our long term future. I have said on many occasions, I really worry about the level of personal debt we are piling up. There will certainly be a reckoning unless this is checked and pronto.

ALAN M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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Electric dreams of running car radio

THE future is electric, I don't know where all this extra 'juice' is going to come from, as we are already struggling with supply but I expect our leaders have got it all under control.

But rather than bore you with my apocalyptic forecasts on energy, I will bring you up to date on why these thoughts were prompted.

I had to take my better half to the doctors, and arriving on time, I was deemed half an hour early even though my appointment card said 16.30hrs so we had to wait until 17.00 hrs so I put on my car radio, and thinking about the climate I did not run my engine, my wife came out I turned the key – flat battery.

So I called the RAC and we got the car started and the engineer told me whenever I have the radio on to run my engine, so I have to now wonder in this brave new age of the electric car, can we have a battery that lasts longer than a AAA battery to run my in-car radio?

S T VAUGHAN
Yardley Wood

Keep eye on asthma sufferers

THE school summer holidays have sadly come to an end. Children are at a much greater risk of having an asthma attack when they're back at school. Latest figures show children were 1.7 times more likely to be rushed to hospital following an asthma attack in September than in August.

Every 10 seconds someone has a potentially life-threatening asthma attack in the UK, so it's important for parents to spot the signs of an asthma attack early.

You should book an urgent appointment with the GP or asthma nurse if your child is: using their reliever inhaler (usually blue) more than three times a week; coughing or wheezing at night; feeling out of breath.

Parents who have any concerns can speak to our expert nurses by calling 0300 222 5800 (Mon-Fri; 9am-5pm), and can find more information by visiting https://www.asthma.org.uk/back-to-school

SONIA MUNDE
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Warning as bus lanes monitored

DRIVERS have been warned they could face £60 fines as more bus lane cameras come into force.

Cameras are being switched on along several main routes in Birmingham in a bid to keep bus lanes free of traffic.

Roads being monitored are the B4128 in Bordesley Green, A5127 Lichfield Road, A38 Tyburn Road and A441 Pershore Road.

Birmingham City Council has already made thousands of pounds from bus lane fines across the city.

Drivers will initially be given a month-long grace period from when the cameras go live on September 4 and will receive warning letters. Fines will start being issued from October 2.

Councillor Stewart Stacey, roads boss at the council, said: "This is about keeping the city moving and selfish motorists who illegally travel in bus lanes have a serious impact on journey times for bus and taxi passengers and further exacerbate the city's congestion problems.

"This isn't about trying to catch people out. I want everyone to know exactly where these cameras are so that they keep out of the bus lanes, rather than having to pay a fine. Even if we don't collect a single penny, the scheme will still be a success because it will mean people have heeded our message and are obeying the law."

Kindness award win by care home

A CARE home is celebrating success after receiving a prestigious award.

Staff at HC-One's The Orchards Care Home in Shard End, Birmingham, won the Kindness in Care Awards for the work they deliver for residents. The Kindness in Care Awards programme was launched by HC-One, a leading provider in health and social care, in October 2013.

No closure for paedophile victim after imam's escape

Arsonist jailed over £500k market blaze

Stephen Wilkinson, and scenes from the fire which ripped through the wholesale market in August 2015

THIS is the worker who started a huge fire at Birmingham's Digbeth wholesale market in an act of 'petty revenge' that caused £500,000 damage. Arsonist Stephen Wilkinson, aged 60, has now been jailed for five years for causing the blaze, which took 40 firefighters several hours to bring under control. CCTV released last week, showed him entering the area where the fire started. Fixtures and fittings in the market were damaged and stock was destroyed, with firefighters lives said to have been put at risk by the inferno.

Police say Wilkinson, of Mickleton Close, Redditch, had worked at the market for a number of decades.

He was found guilty by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court of arson with intent to endanger life. The police said the Judge Kristina Montgomery said that the motive was unclear and the only logical explanation was one of petty revenge'.

Wilkinson was said to be 'genuinely sorry'. Huge plumes of black smoke could be seen from miles around as the blaze took hold on the afternoon of August 6, 2015.

A VICTIM of a paedophile imam who went on the run during his trial has said he remains constantly on her mind almost a year after he evaded justice.

Hafiz Rahman, who preyed on two young girls at a Black Country mosque in the 1980s, slipped through the net and fled to Bangladesh after claiming he was to ill to attend court.

The incredible lapse left one of his victims incredulous as her long and arduous battle for justice was snatched away. Rahman, aged 58, of Ballard Road, Netherton, was found guilty of five charges of indecent assault in October.

But after the jury found him guilty in his absence, Rahman managed to board a flight to Bangladesh under the noses of the police to avoid being sentenced.

Rahman was the imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath and was convicted of historic crimes against the girls, who he was supposed to be giving religious instruction.

West Midlands Police has insisted the hunt to find the fugitive imam remains an 'active investigation', while the Crown Prosecution is understood to have discovered a location for him but no arrest has taken place. Hopes of his capture were raised earlier this year when files were passed to extradition experts but he has yet to return to the UK.

The mother-of-one said the imam's escape has prevented her from moving on and believes he may never be found.

She also complained about receiving a lack of information on the investigation from both the police and the CPS.

A jail cell will be waiting for Rahman if he ever returns to the UK after he was sentenced to 11 and a half years in his absence at Wolverhampton Crown Court last year – but that is of little comfort to the victim, now aged 40. She said: "I still have no closure. I'm still angry and frustrated. It is constantly there in my mind.

Hafiz Rahman, now in Bangladesh

"It was a bittersweet victory.

"I was angry. I don't know how this has happened. He didn't turn up to court the last few times. The alarm bells should have been ringing. I don't know how he was allowed to go home.

"Personally, I don't think they will ever find him, Bangladesh is a very big country."

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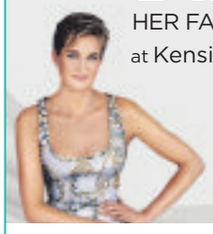

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Snapped up on ebay and transformed by Oldbury couple Sandip Gillar and Dal Gillar, the all-electric Ride My Tuk Tuk, will offer customers the chance to travel to events in three-wheeled style.

The cute customised yellow and black vehicle, which came all the way from China, can hit speeds of up to 30 miles per hour and amazingly has space for five people.

And to top it off it is environmentally-friendly travelling 60 miles before it needs to be charged up again for four or five hours.

Sandip and Dal Gillar in their customised tuk tuk bought on ebay

Memories

The couple decided to start the company whilst Sandip was on maternity leave waiting to give birth to her now four-month-old daughter Ava.

Mrs Gillar, 29, said: "Everyone absolutely loves it, for many people it brings back memories they have of India or Pakistan.

"It brings back memories for the older generation and the younger ones love the uniqueness of it."

Sandip, a senior marketing campaign co-ordinator for Poundland came up with the idea.

She discussed it with husband Dal Gillar who took to web to buy the vehicle – more often seen on the roads of India or Pakistan.

They can fetch up to £3,000 on the internet.

Mr Gillar, 29, a special vehicle operation team leader for Jaguar Land-rover, worked on the flat-pack vehicle in his garage long after shifts working on cars for the likes of world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua and other customers.

The pair have now launched a website ridemytuktuk.com for people to book the tuk tuk for everything from weddings to proms.

At the moment it can only be used as a photo booth with the couple having to transport it on the back of a truck. But they are in the process of getting the paperwork done to allow it to hit the road soon.

The couple charge £700 per session and have already been booked for a number of weddings and birthdays and have plans to expand the business.

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Chris caters for all tastes with a smile on his face

HIS smiley face, caring nature and dedication to his customers have made Chris Douglas one of the most recognised faces at City Hospital.

The catering assistant has been working at the Birmingham site for 27 years and for him, no two days are ever the same.

Chris' career at the hospital, which is run by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, began with washing dishes and providing support to the catering team.

But he has worked his way up the food chain and now cooks and prepares fresh food and then sells it to staff and visitors. He said: "It has been a great journey for me. When I first started, I helped out with preparing fresh food and salad. Now I'm responsible for selling at food outlets across City Hospital and the Birmingham Treatment Centre, and I absolutely love what I'm doing.

Fascinated

"I get to meet people from different walks of life and I have become more confident and comfortable with talking to staff and visitors who I've never met before."

Like many other staff in the Trust, Chris is excited about the Midland Metropolitan Hospital in Smethwick – due to open in spring 2019 – and where he will be based then.

He said: "I am fascinated by the scale of the hospital and I can't wait to work there and make great healthy food for our patients, staff and visitors."

His cheerful spirit is one of the best ingredients when it comes to serving his customers. He explained: "I really believe that a smile can make a difference to someone's day and I think good customer service will always add something special to the meal."

It's no surprise that with such a strong sense of duty, Chris's catering colleagues voted him as "good worker" of the month in August.

He said: "I was delighted when I was told I had been put forward for the title. It was great to get that recognition and it made all the hard work that I have put in worthwhile."

And he credits his parents as the inspiration behind his dedicated approach to his work.

He added: "My parents have worked incredibly hard throughout their lives. My mum is a carer and the way she goes about her work has really influenced me on how to treat people the right way and with respect. Sometimes, when I see staff who are working a long shift, I offer them a cup of tea or glass of water. I think that helps them a lot."

When asked what super power he would choose, he laughed and said: "I would like to have the power to help me get everything done in a second. That would be absolutely brilliant."

In his spare time, Chris enjoys working out at the gym to keep fit. He's also planning to start playing football again, and said: "When I was a kid, I dreamed of being a professional football player. It's a great sport and I enjoyed playing with my friends. But now the hospital has set up a 5 aside league for staff I'm thinking of playing more regularly."

Chris has a brother and a sister and he loves spending time with his family.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

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Catering assistant

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6:00 pm **Lye**
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Wedding smile back in a day

A cost-effective solution, the All-on-4™ therapy can offer new teeth in a single day. Encouraged by her granddaughter, a dental professional, super-nan Janet Harris opted for this lifestyle investment that has helped recapture her Big Day smile

Recovering her wedding day smile with the All-on-4 therapy is Jannet Harris. *Inset:* **The Big Day image from which Steven Burchell had to work**

WHEN Janet Harris's smile was compromised she knew exactly what she wanted from her dentist."Definitely no dentures," the super-nan says emphatically.

"My mother had more sets of false teeth than I have fingers, she could never master them and I'm sure I couldn't either," she adds.

"I wanted something just like my own teeth – there's nothing like them – and I didn't want brilliant white teeth either . . . they look ridiculous on someone my age," says the spritely 70-something-year-old financial controller, who works full-time for her family profile cutting business.

Memorable moment

"No," she affirms, taking a black and white wedding album picture from her handbag. "I wanted teeth like those in this photograph when I was 19, natural and not too white." Snapped on her Big Day with husband Colin and brother Brian at the then newly-built Catholic church in Whiteheath, Janet was determined to recover the smile of that memorable moment.

She admits to being lucky with her native teeth and the dentistry she has received since she was child.

But after surviving an astonishing 30 years, three teeth on an upper left bridge fell out. "I also had five teeth at the front on a bridge and I knew it was time to get some new dental work done," she says.

With care, it's possible for bridges to last up to eight years.

"I'd lost a few back teeth when I was a girl. Mum, who was terrified of the dentist, didn't believe in fillings and I was dispatched with my father to have teeth out," she adds.

Those memories of having gas extractions, the predictable sickness afterwards and "the horrible, black rubber mask" are vivid, but Janet still braved regular dental appointments throughout her life. She recalls how her friend attended a questions and answers open day at North Street Dental and Implant Clinic after experiencing problems with a prosthetic prescription and recommended her to chat with the friendly staff.

'No pain'

After initial consultations with implant surgeon Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) and Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), Janet continued to research her clinical options.

"I started coming [to the surgery] every other week to be clear in my own mind about the decision on the treatment. Everyone was patient with me and very helpful answering my questions," says Janet.

Deciding on an All-on-4 option, a system where her full upper arch of teeth is secured on four strategically sited implants, the procedure was completed within a single day.

"I came in on a Wednesday at 9am and by 3.30pm I had my teeth in," she says.

With conscious sedation during the procedure, Janet was able to leave the surgery by 4pm. "I genuinely had no pain – well, except for the fact I couldn't have a glass of wine for a few days," she jokes.

And the wedding day look? "I've got a few more wrinkles now, but it's pretty close."

Adds Steven: "Using the picture to get the aesthetics right was helpful, but we went through a few hoops getting there as we considered the natural ageing process on the teeth.

"The result is a natural look that functions just like native teeth."

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Sandwell commits £30m to Commonwealth bid

COUNCIL bosses in Sandwell have committed almost £30 million to Birmingham's Commonwealth Games bid as they hit back at criticism from rivals in Liverpool over a planned aquatics centre.

Leisure chiefs said a brand new swimming centre would be built on one of two sites in Smethwick but insisted there was no doubt it would be completed.

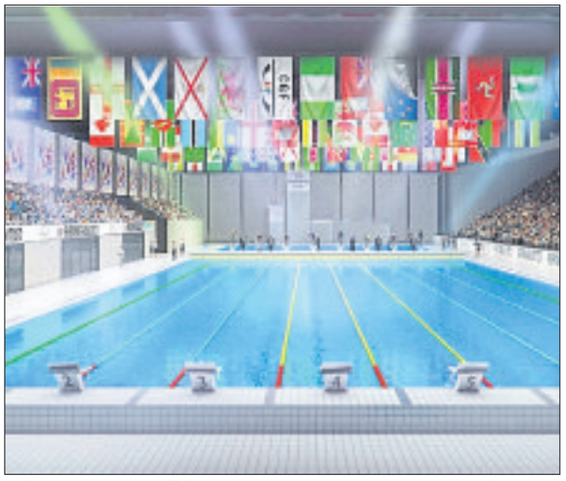
Senior council officials met on Thursday night to hammer out details of their support for the bid and commit funds towards it.

Councillor Richard Marshall, leisure boss at Sandwell Council, was stung by remarks from Liverpool that Birmingham organisers had not been able to name its swimming centre but insisted they would deliver a top-class facility.

One site is favoured over the other but Councillor Marshall said it would not be a problem if they needed to switch to the other option.

The state-of-the art centre would feature 1,000 poolside seats for spectators, while another 4,000 would be drafted in especially for the games. He said: "There is site A and site B. We are pushing for site A but if push comes to shove we will go for site B." He added: "Liverpool have been making a big thing that we can't even name our swimming facility but we have committed the best part of £30 million to Birmingham to supply the aquatics centre. Liverpool can say what they like, we have got a good bid between the two councils."

Councillor Marshall said the money for supporting the bid would come from a 'variety of sources', including from the council.



How the centre will look, which would be situated in Smethwick

Hospital trusts to merge

TWO West Midlands hospital trusts are to merge, after the plan was cleared.

The Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, will join together after the move was approved by the Competitions and Marketing Authority (CMA).

The CMA said that while the merger could give rise to competition concerns across a number of specialties, these were outweighed by the substantial improvements to patient care.

Kate Collyer, CMA deputy chief economic adviser, said: "We have found this merger will have substantial benefits to the healthcare of patients in the Birmingham and Solihull area. The hospitals involved presented clear evidence and a well reasoned case."

Council enforcement teams on taxing task

Taxi driver Ercan Er, whose vehicle passed the recent spotchecks with flying colours

SANDWELL Council's taxi licensing team is carrying out spotcheck operations to make sure vehicles, drivers and passengers are safe. The latest operation by Sandwell Council's taxi licensing enforcement team, West Midlands Police, the DVSA and MOT testers stopped 22 vehicles – 18 from Sandwell and four licensed by City of Wolverhampton Council on Friday August 18.

Of the Sandwell vehicles stopped, 14 passed the checks with flying colours. Four needed lightbulbs replacing, two were found to have brake pads that would soon need replacing and one vehicle had tyre and lighting issues as well as an insecure battery. The tyre, bulb and battery issues were fixed during the checks.

One other Sandwell driver was issued with a delayed prohibition to get an excessively worn universal joint fixed – which will need repairing and a fresh MOT for the vehicle.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for public health and

Toilets will soon open, pledge by top brass

COUNCIL bosses have insisted that new town centre toilets in West Bromwich will open 'imminently', after concerns were raised by traders.

By Lewis Cox

Councillor David Hosell, Sandwell cabinet member for highways, revealed that while £70,000 refurbishments to the indoor market's new services were running a couple of weeks behind schedule, the focus was on getting them in full, working order.

Work on the male, female and disabled toilets, as well as baby changing and feeding areas, got underway earlier in the summer.

Length

The new services will have a pay-gate installed and be used at a charge of 20p, allowing the council to fund a full-time toilet attendant to manage and clean the facilities.

Concerns have been raised about the length of the build, which has suffered a short delay.

Councillor Hosell added that just a 'couple of parts' were required for the refurbishment to be finalised.

"The toilets we are providing are vastly superior to those of the past," he said.

"They will be fully cleaned and attended with a small charge.

"I don't think there's a dramatic shortage at the moment. These will be much superior. It has taken a little longer than forecast but it's very, very close now. The sooner the better as far as we are concerned.

"I would ask people to be patient and use the other local facilities."

Meanwhile, toilets in the town's bus station, a few minute's walk away, remain available.

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Do you have a child born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 and due to start reception class

OR

a child due to transfer to junior school in September 2018?

The admissions booklet and application form for reception classes will be available online from 18 September 2017. If your child is in Year 2 in a Sandwell infant school this September, you will receive a letter explaining how to apply direct from the school.

The closing date for reception and junior application is 15 January 2018.

Do you live in Sandwell and have a child who is due to transfer to secondary school in September 2018?

If your child is already in a Sandwell school and you live in Sandwell, the admissions booklet and application for Secondary classes will be available online from 17 July 2017.

You will have received a letter from your child's current primary school explaining how to apply. If you do not live in Sandwell you should contact the Council to which you pay your council tax.

The closing date for secondary applications is 31 October 2017

Apply online at:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council,
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School Admissions Service,
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GP phone service cuts hospital visits

NEARLY 2,000 patients were spared an avoidable visit to hospital by GPs who used a new service to call specialists for immediate advice.

Doctors in the West Midlands turned to Consultant Connect, which allows them to speak to a specialist, often with the patient still in the room and can save them waiting days for a response or being sent to hospital for further checks.

Around 1,850 patients were spared going to Sandwell Hospital as well as Heartland and Good Hope Hospitals in Birmingham, experts said.

The service covers cardiology, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology, gynaecology, general surgery, haematology, paediatrics, renal medicine, urology and respiratory medicine.

Ensuring

Since the phone line launched, GPs from 100 surgeries across Walsall, Sandwell and Solihull have made nearly 2,500 calls to specialists to get expert advice on the best care for their patients.

Consultant Connect estimates that West Midlands GPs and consultants have saved the NHS £570,000 by ensuring patients get the right treatment from the beginning. The company works with the NHS by providing a phone line for doctors to use if they are unsure on the best way forward for a patient. When local GPs used Consultant Connect, around 50 per cent of their patients avoided the inconvenience of a trip to hospital.

Chief executive Jonathan Patrick said: "It's fantastic that the telephone advice and guidance service Consultant Connect is having such a positive impact on the lives of patients, GPs and consultants in Birmingham."

Library remembers Alf, 91

Alf Breakwell, who died earlier in the year, aged 91

TIPTON library will be hosting its sixth annual local history day later this month when they will remember a friend of the library Alf Breakwell who passed away earlier this year.

Everyone is invited to the event on Saturday September 23 between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Exhibitions on show will include a selection of images from the Palethorpes archive plus stalls, a cake sale and a talk about the history of local firm Walters Funerals.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure Councillor Richard Marshall said: "Alf was 91. He was a member of the Tipton Home Guard and a regular visitor to the library where he always brought a home-made sponge cake in to share

"As a tribute, the local history group are hosting the Breakwell Bake Off – a cake competition to find the best sandwich cake or loaf cake in the area."

Entry forms are available from all Tipton libraries and Alf's son and daughter will be on the judging panel.

For more details contact community library manager Robert Hazel at the library on 0121 557 1796 or robert_hazel@sandwell.gov.uk

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Commercial feature

MARKET leading Stourbridge double glazing business Carera Windows has fitted more than half a million quality windows and doors over the past 28 years.

The company based in Junction Road, Audnam, started out 28 years ago to serve the Stourbridge area but as it has grown it has moved on to serve neighbouring areas including Halesowen, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove and Worcester.

The business moved to its present base 20 years ago. Carera offer a full range of windows and doors and also install a full range of conservatories, orangeries and living spaces.

Happy

The company prides itself on having a depth of knowledge in all aspects of the products it offers and industry regulations. The company is fully conversant with all current regulations within the industry. A key aim is to provide a level of customer service that is second to none.

More than 70 per cent of all Carera Windows' home sales come via personal recommendation from happy clients, which number many thousands. It takes pride in completing every project to the highest standard.

From the start, Carera is committed to offering only top-quality products, expert installations and unbeatable personal service to both private and commercial customers. Its experienced team is committed to working closely with local authorities, education authorities, landlords, architects and contractors on its commercial work. Carera Windows is keen to get involved in any kind of commercial project from industrial units to office conversions, new build to refurbishments and renovations.

The company's showroom at its base is open Monday to Friday. 9am to 5pm and Saturday, 10am to 4pm. It offers a wide range of products in various sizes and colours, manufactured using PVCu, aluminium, GRP and hardwood. Carera also installs entrance doors ,sliding patio doors , french double doors and porches

Carera Windows was started by owner and managing director Mark Crumpton in 1989, originally from home as a small enterprising double glazing company supplying the local area. Its housing association glazing contracts and commercial premises work now also takes the business across the country.

Carera prides itself on offering honest and professional expert advice, installing 100 per cent high quality products, sensible prices and outstanding customer service.

It has become a market leader in its area and aims to provide a friendly service without hard sell.

Carera can supply and fit from a single window to complex orangeries and no job is to small or to large for it. The company controls every aspect of its projects.

CONTACT US

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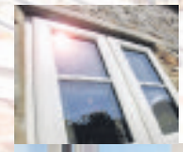

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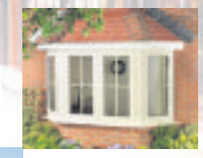

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X Factor's Diana has Look of Love

Diana Vickers, who found fame on X Factor, will recreate the magic of Dusty Springfield when she stars in Son of a Preacher Man at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to September 16.

The production tells the story of three broken hearts, one Soho hang-out, and the only man who could ever help them.

Diana was thrilled to be asked and announced the role on Instagram: "Very excited to announce I will be starring in the brand new stage show of Son of a Preacher Man.

"Very much looking forward to working with a great team on what I think will be a gem of a show! Hope to see some of you there."

Choreographer Craig Revel Horwood added: "I am delighted to bring to life for the very first time this wonderful story created by Warner Brown, with soulful songs from the legendary Dusty Springfield's iconic music catalogue.

"I hope that audiences will come to love this warm-hearted and uplifting new musical as much as I do."

New Alexandra Theatre spokeswoman Fiona McCartney says: "Welcome to the Preacher Man, the swinging 1960s Soho joint where the kids danced the night away to the latest crazes and dared to dream of love, while the legendary owner, The Preacher Man himself, dispensed advice to cure the loneliest of hearts.

"Only, that was a long time ago and all that remains are the memories, the stories and the myths. Until now, that is, when three random strangers, generations apart but all in need of help with their hopeless love lives, are inexplicably drawn to the site of the original venue.

"The Preacher Man is long gone, but his son, with help from the wonderful Cappuccino Sisters, might just find it in himself to channel the spirit of The Preacher Man and once more give these three lovesick strangers the look of love."

ATTENTION

The play features the greatest hits of Dusty Springfield, including The Look Of Love, I Only Want To Be With You, Spooky and the classic Son Of A Preacher Man.

Directed and choreographed by Strictly Come Dancing's Craig, it stars Diana (Little Voice, Rocky Horror Show, X Factor), Debra Stephenson (The Impressions Show, Bad Girls, Coronation Street) and Ian Reddington (Benidorm, Shameless, Robin Hood).

Diana first came to the public's attention when she was a semi-finalist on the 2008 edition of X Factor. She hit the road with her fellow finalists after the show before landing a career in the West End.

She had been prepared for stardom by taking singing lessons as a youngster in Blackburn – though she didn't sing professionally until adulthood.

Her X Factor entry came about with a cover of Damien Rice's hit The Blower's Daughter, which dazzled Louis Walsh and Cheryl Cole among others. Simon Cowell described her as a Marmite artist – who he loved.

He later signed her to his label and her debut album, Songs from the Tainted Cherry Tree, later became a number one and earned her a gold disc.

Gradually, the star also developed an acting career after starring in a newly- revived West End production of Jim Cartwright's The Rise and Fall of Little Voice in October 2009 at the Vaudeville Theatre, on The Strand, London.

She played a character called Little Voice, impersonating such singers as Shirley Bassey, Edith Piaf and Judy Garland.

She also moved into the movies after landing a debut film role alongside Clint Eastwood's son in The Perfect Wave, which was about surfing and the power of life and death. Diana developed a fashion line, described as boho-chic and hippie-influenced, that was inspired by Brigitte Bardot and Marilyn Monroe. And she has remained busy ever since, combining her fashion dreams with roles in theatre.

Most recently, she played Janet in a touring production of The Rocky Horror Picture Show. And there are plenty more roles that she'd like to play. She's a fan of Grease and would like to play Sandy. "I'd love to. Although Rizzo would be incredible, you'd rather be Rizzo wouldn't you, because she's just sexier? I like bad characters!"

Though she works formidably hard, Diana takes time out to switch off and relax. Her favourite hobby is reading and she gets sucked into a good book.

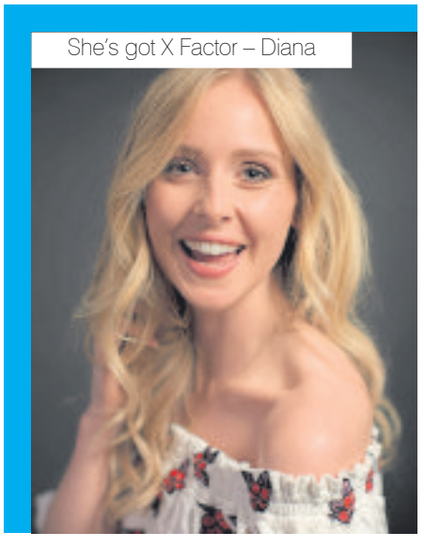
"I do a lot of baking when I'm stressed. And I love exercising, running, gym classes, yoga, interval training. Then just normal things like chilling with my friends, playing music loudly . . . and having a glass of wine after the show always helps!"

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Diana will bring the hits of Dusty Springfield back to life

Hard work – in rehearsals

Star cast – Debra, Ian and Diana


She's got X Factor – Diana

The Human League

1980s hit-makers are in a League of their own

One of the biggest British bands of the 1980s will be giving fans Electric Dreams when they perform at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday.

Synth pop legends The Human League will be in concert following a race meeting on September 9.

The Sheffield new wave outfit, led by Phil Oakey and also featuring vocals from Joanne Catherall and Susan Ann Sulley, will play as part of The SunBets Music Live 2017 meeting at Dunstall's all-weather track.

The band, famed for their cross-Atlantic number one hit Don't You Want Me – which sold more than 20 million – will play their classic 1980s hits including Love Action, Mirror Man, Fascination and Human.

When the group played in the city in December 2014 at the Civic Hall, an Express & Star review of that gig hailed the group as 'modern pop music perfection'.

The Human League have returned to the area in recent years and they performed at Uttoxeter Racecourse last year, marking 35 years since the release of their best-selling album Dare!

Since 1978, the Human League have released nine studio albums, four EPs and 30 singles with Don't You Want Me entering the top 20 again just four years ago.

Tickets to the event start from £35.95 with family tickets for £110. These can be bought directly from the racecourse by calling 01902 390 000 or online at the wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk website.

The flat racing takes place from 5.25 to 8.30pm with the concert held after the final race.

Dave is back on the home Beat

The Beat, featuring original co-frontman and singer Dave Wakeling, have a homecoming gig in Birmingham for the musician who now resides in Los Angeles.

The gig on Friday, September 15, part of a UK tour, is Wakeling's first in the city since the death of the original band's Birmingham-based veteran saxophonist Saxa.

Wakeling has been putting the finishing touches to his first studio album under The Beat moniker since Special Beat Service in 1982. Tentatively titled Here We Go Love, it's an album of uplifting ska rhythms, infectious pop hooks and some Californian sunshine which reflects Wakeling's adopted home.

The Beat exploded out of Brum in 1979 as part of the same ska/rock/reggae scene that launched The Specials and UB40. Dave Wakeling enjoyed further success in the States with supergroup General Public and released a solo album No Warning in 1991.

Wakeling has played an estimated thousand shows as the frontman of The English Beat, most in the USA where he continues to command a devoted audience.

Straddling 2 Tone, [illegible] and post-punk, The Beat had a host of hits – including Mirror In The Bathroom, Too Nice To Talk To, Hands Off She's Mine and hit covers of Tears Of A Clown and Can't Get Used To Losing You.

For tickets to see Wakeling's seven-piece incarnation of The Beat at Birmingham's O2 Academy 2, supported by Frantic Action and Ruder Than U, see academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham/ website.

Another version of The Beat, featuring Ranking Roger, are touring with The Selecter.

Whip smart play is domestic drama

A powerful play about privilege, power and how the past can affect the present is being staged at Birmingham Rep's venue The Door.

The Whip Hand by Scottish playwright Douglas Maxwell is a domestic drama set in Glasgow. When Dougie chooses his 50th birthday party to right an old wrong, it causes a family rift. With Jonathan Watson, from TV sit-com Two Doors Down, as Dougie, The Whip Hand runs at The Door until next Saturday, September 16.

Marvelettes time for Tamla Motown fans

Motown legends The Marvelettes are coming to the Black Country.

Soul enthusiast and Northern Soul DJ Hitsville Chalky is bringing the 1960s girl group over from Detroit for a concert at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Friday, September 15.

The Marvelettes, who were actually signed to Tamla until that merged with sister label Motown, had one of the label's first US hits with chart-topper Please Mr Postman and had a UK hit with When You're Young And In Love.

The group features original member Katherine Anderson. There will also be DJ sets from Hitsville Chalky, Gary Parker and Catacombs legend Pep.

For tickets see tickets.bhillcivic.co.uk/boxoffice/book/1056 or call 01384 573381.

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

5* JOURNEY AROUND INDIA

Imagine walking into Mumbai train station, this is the start to your journey! You can be seated in any area of your trains destination, and enjoy a cultural evening of superb Indian food.

Journeys Indian Restaurant and Bar has recently opened off the Wolverhampton Road not far from the Birchly Island, and a visit will leave you mesmerised at the decor, service and taste.

Upon arrival we were met by a smartly dressed waiter called Monty, who we found to be very knowledgeable about the menu, decor and the history of the train stations of India.

He escorted us to our carriage and when we were seated at our table we were able to choose a drink from a variety of Indian lagers, cocktails and wines.

We followed Monty's recommendations and selected the Achari Lamb Chops and Sweet Chili Chicken as our starter which were so tender and succulent

and followed it up with a main course of Methi Garlic Chicken and the Chicken Biriyani.

The train took us to food heaven, the presentation was outstanding and the taste of the different herbs and spices was sensational.

My partner and myself were so delighted with our Journey we have booked a return ticket!

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SATURDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 9

CHOICE

Radzi Chinyanganya

Cannonball (ITV, 7pm)
Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves 'cannonball-style' at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's 'priceless' Cannonball Cup. Frankie Bridge, Radzi Chinyanganya, Ryan Hand and Maya Jama all join Andrew at the poolside to commentate on the action.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's British Food Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Great North CityGames. Gabby Logan presents coverage from the Newcastle Gateshead Quayside. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme.

6.10 Pointless Celebrities. Ruth Badger, Solomon Akhtar, Carl Fogarty, Jimmy Bullard, Craig Phillips, Nikki Grahame, Jamie Laing and Alex Mytton compete in a reality TV-themed edition. (R)

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing Launch Show 2017. New series. The pro-celebrity ballroom contest returns, with an opening spectacular featuring last year's champions Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton performing their winning routine, plus music from Shania Twain and Rita Ora. The line-up this year features former Holby City star Chizzy Akudolu, Emmerdale and Hollyoaks alumnus Gemma Atkinson, 2008 X Factor winner Alexandra Burke, TV and radio comedy star Susan Calman, Radio 4 broadcaster the Rev Richard Coles, TV presenter Brian Conley, EastEnders' Davood Ghadami (Kush Kazemi), Good Morning Britain's Charlotte Hawkins and The Saturdays' singer Mollie King. Also treading the boards are This Morning's Ruth Langsford, Holby City actor Joe McFadden, JLS's Aston Merrygold, Paralympian Jonnie Peacock, TV chef Simon Rimmer, and Debbie McGee, whose late husband and performing partner Paul Daniels previously took to the dancefloor in 2010. This year, the "Queen of Latin" Shirley Ballas will be replacing Len Goodman on the judges' panel, with Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell all returning to appraise the talents of the amateur dancers and their professional partners.

8.40 BBC News; Weather.
9.00 Last Night of the Proms.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest top-flight matches.
11.55 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world.
12.25 Film: The Rookie. (2002) **2.25** Weather for the Week Ahead.

BBC2

6.15 How We Won the War. (R) **6.45** The Lancaster: Britain's Flying Past. (R) **7.45 Film:** Vivacious Lady. (1938) **9.15 Film:** The Fox and the Child. (2007) **10.45** Railways of the Great War with Michael Portillo. (R) **11.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's Long Weekends. (R) **1.00** Coast Australia. (R) **1.50 Film:** Emma. (1996) Jane Austen drama, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. **3.45** Mastermind. (R) **4.15** University Challenge. (R) **4.45** Only Connect. (R) **5.15** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.15 The Big Family Cooking Showdown. Culinary competition hosted by Zoe Ball and Nadiya Hussain in which two families face a series of challenges based on the realities of everyday meals. (R)

7.15 Last Night of the Proms. Katie Derham presents live from London's Royal Albert Hall, where the BBC Proms' signature Last Night concert gets under way. Conductor Sakari Oramo leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus this evening, as they accompany soprano Nina Stemme in a performance of music from Wagner's Tristan and Isolde. The ensemble celebrates 100 years of Finnish independence with renditions of Sibelius's Finlandia and Kodaly's Budavari Te Deum, with help from soprano Lucy Crowe, mezzo Christine Rice, tenor Ben Johnson and bass John Relyea. Also featuring this evening is the premiere of Finnish composer Lotta Wennakoski's Flounce, and a performance of Malcolm Sergent's An Impression on a Windy Day.

9.00 Film: X+Y. (2014) Premiere. A specially awkward teenager finds it difficult to communicate with people, but finds comfort in his passion for numbers. However, while training to take part in the forthcoming International Mathematical Olympiad, he finds love with a kindred spirit. Comedy drama, starring Asa Butterfield, Rafe Spall and Sally Hawkins.

10.45 Film: What Women Want. (2000) A womanising executive gets a new insight into life when he accidentally gains the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Romantic comedy, with Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt.

12.45 Film: Miss Bala. (2011) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Star Wars: The Yoda Chronicles. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Morning with James Martin. **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The X Factor. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Haydock. Coverage of this afternoon's meetings at Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 The Family Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts a family-themed edition of the game show. The French family from Wiltshire pit their general-knowledge know-how against that of professional quizzers.

7.00 Cannonball. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which 24 contestants are tasked with traversing a series of water-based challenges and custom-made inflatable obstacles, each designed to test their speed, accuracy, height and distance. The most successful contestants then claim a chance to launch themselves "cannonball-style" at a moving target on the surface of a deep-water tank, all in the hope of nabbing the show's "priceless" Cannonball Cup.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents as the nationwide talent contest continues apace in the third rounds of auditions. Another selection of would-be stars submit themselves for approval by uncompromising resident judges Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell.

9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.
10.20 ITV News; Weather.
10.35 Film: United 93. (2006) Fact-based drama about the fourth plane hijacked in the September 11 attacks, which was stopped from reaching its target by the passengers. With Christian Clemenson and Trish Gates.
12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.35** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.05** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.25** Big House, Little House. **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Location, Location, Location. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Shakespeare's Tomb. Documentary charting a two-year-long archeological investigation of William Shakespeare's grave at Holy Trinity Church in Stratford-upon-Avon. The grave itself bears a curse condemning anyone who disturbs the Bard's final resting place, reading "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear/To dig the dust enclosed here/Blessed be the man that spares the stones/And cursed be he that moves my bones". For the first time since Shakespeare's death 400 years ago, the church has authorised archaeologists to conduct a study on the site, giving Kevin Colls of Staffordshire University, leading geophysicist Erica Utsi, and Cambridge historian Dr Helen Castor a chance to utilise state-of-the-art radar technology to build up a picture of what lies beneath the surface without disturbing the hallowed site. As the team reveals, the results of their examination contained a few unexpected surprises. (R)

8.00 Great Canal Journeys: India. Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Brahmaputra river, where they follow an old trade route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant. (R)

9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class. (2011) Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence.

11.40 Film: The Tourist. (2010) Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

1.25 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.20** The State. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** Murdered: Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Steve are sent to north London to evict a young Romanian mother who owes £6,000 in unpaid rent, but when they arrive, they discover a family home that is not quite what it appears to be. Meanwhile, in Kent, Brian and Alan turn up the pressure on a debtor who has admitted to owing more than £7,000, but claims he cannot afford to pay up – despite having a garage full of expensive tools. Later, in south-west London, Brian accompanies Delroy as he tries to recover a £400,000 debt from a residential property, and when the pair trace the defaulter to an upmarket cafe, the man in charge lies about his identity. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v West Indies. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the third day of the Third Test, which took place at Lord's.

8.00 The Great Fire: London Burns. Dan Jones, Suzannah Lipscomb and Rob Bell take a look at the Great Fire of London by walking the route the fire took across the city, hour-by-hour and street-by-street. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Fulham v Cardiff City and Sunderland v Sheffield United.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Portsmouth and Rotherham United v Bury.

10.30 Hijacked.
11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)
11.55 Access. Showbiz news and gossip. (R)
12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Exploding Sun. **4.40** Access.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Brain with David Eagleman **8.00** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.30** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days **12.30** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **1.30** Bright Lights, Brilliant Minds: A Tale of Three Cities **2.30** Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.20 The X Factor **12.20** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.20** You've Been Framed! Gold Top 100 Talent **2.20** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.50 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** Paul Blart: Mall Cop (2009) **4.45 Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **6.50 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55 Film:** The Incredible Hulk (2008) **9.00 Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** American Pie 2 (2001) **11.10** Family Guy **12.55 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.10 FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** The Secret Garden (1993) **12.15 Film:** Columbo: The Most Dangerous Match (1973) **1.50** Wycliffe **2.55** Foyle's War **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **1.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
3.30 Quincy ME **4.30** The Professionals **5.35** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: Best of Jarrod and Brandi **6.30** Storage Wars: Best of Darrell and Brandon **7.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** The Gauntlet (1977) **11.15 Film:** Double Jeopardy (1999) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20 Film:** Double Jeopardy (1999) **1.30** Minder **2.25** Tommy Cooper

E4
11.30 Film: The Tigger Movie (2000) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory **1.55** Streetmate **3.00** Don't Tell the Bride **4.00** The Great British Bake Off **5.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Naked Attraction

Film4
11.00 Destry Rides Again (1939) **1.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **2.50** Marmaduke (2010) **4.35** The Hound of the Baskervilles (1959) **6.20** Seven Years in Tibet (1997) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Shut In (2015) **1.00** The Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2 (1986) **3.05** Close

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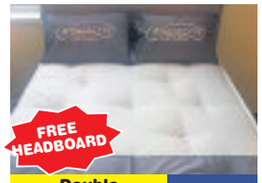

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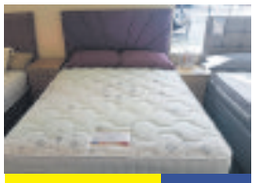

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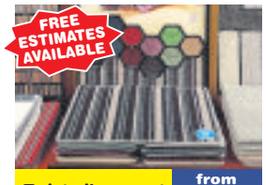

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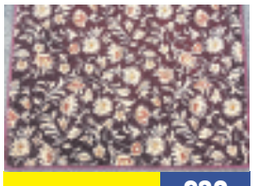

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SUNDAY'S TV SEPTEMBER 10

CHOICE

Grace Jones

All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop (Channel 5, 9pm)
A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.05** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.30** Great North Run. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the half-marathon that runs from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, with approximately 57,000 runners set to take part this time around. **1.30** BBC News; Weather. **1.45** Fake or Fortune? (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05 Film:** Shrek 2. (2004) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Ellie Harrison presents the show from Cornwall's Rame Peninsula, revealing the story of the area's last fisherman, who continues to use the traditional methods of his forefathers and is and is passing his skills on to disadvantaged youngsters. Plus, Tom Heap goes in search of Britain's traditional craftsmen and women.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould investigate the history of two pictures, both of which are believed to be by Paul Gauguin, one of the giants of 19th-century art.

9.00 Strike – The Silkworm. Part one of a two-part adaptation of the second of JK Rowling's detective novels featuring private eye Cormoran Strike. The detective is hired by the wife of a notorious author to find her missing husband, only to discover the writer has been murdered in a manner remarkably similar to a scene in one of his books.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Swansea City v Newcastle United at the Liberty Stadium and Burnley v Crystal Palace at Turf Moor.

11.30 People Just Do Nothing. Steves kidnaps one of the KOLD FM team, driving Grindah to arrange a showdown with his rivals. Miche takes Angel's role in the school play a little too seriously.

12.00 Film: The Rebound. (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones and Justin Bartha. **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The Instant Gardener. (R) **6.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **11.00** My Life on a Plate. (R) **11.45** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45 Film:** Grand Prix. (1966) Motor racing drama, starring James Garner. **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Great North Run Highlights. Ore Oduba presents action from the half-marathon that ran from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields, as Vivian Cheruiyot attempted to retain her title in the women's elite race. With commentary from Steve Cram, Andrew Cotter and Paula Radcliffe, and reports by JJ Chalmers, Denise Lewis and Colin Jackson.

7.00 Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan sets out to gain a new understanding of fierce predators by meeting different tribes that hunt and live alongside them. He begins on Owarigi in the Solomon Islands, where the local men encounter dangerous sharks almost every day, even swimming alongside them as they freedive for the fish they need to survive. (R)

8.00 Astronauts: Do You Have What It Takes? The remaining candidates head to a secret facility in Sweden, where they are deliberately deprived of oxygen to see if they can recognise the signs of hypoxia.

9.00 Dragons' Den. The panel assess the profit-making potential of business plans involving beach towels, a range of novelty plush goods, and a form of packaging based around air.

10.00 Best Album 2017: Meet the Mercury Prize Nominees. Documentary previewing the shortlisted artists for 2017, hearing from musicians from the vanguard of grime, performance poetry and guitar rock.

10.30 Film: Broken. (2012) An 11-year-old girl witnesses a man being attacked by her neighbour, which destroys her innocent outlook on life. Drama, with Eloise Laurence, Tim Roth and Cillian Murphy.

11.55 Film: False Trail. (2011) Mystery, with Rolf Lassgard.

2.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.55** Holby City. (R) **3.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Mission Employable. (R) **7.05** Oddbods. (R) **7.10** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Ben 10. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **10.25** The Chase. (R) **11.25** Long Lost Family. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. (R) **1.00 Film:** You've Got Mail. (1998) Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. **3.15** The X Factor. (R) **4.30** Victoria. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.40** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Ben Shephard presents a celebrity edition of the quiz, in which contestants Julian Clary, Sara Cox and Alan Halsall answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Coronation Street. Anna discovers Faye's plan to run away with Seb, family secrets threaten Peter and Toyah's future, and a frightened Rita has a go at Norris.

8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary presents the fourth rounds of auditions, as more would-be stars perform for Louis Walsh, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Simon Cowell.

9.00 Victoria. The queen is moved by the plight of a silk weaver in Spitalfields, and decides to throw a lavish medieval ball at the palace to help, with all attendees wearing outfits made in the area. Albert has his doubts about the plan, but finds himself seduced by the grandeur of the event. However, while the evening proves a success, reuniting old friends and creating new romances, it is greeted with outrage by the discontented public. **10.05 ITV News**; Weather.

10.20 Judge Rinder's Crime Stories. Barrister Robert Rinder examines the case of Gary Nelson, who murdered a bouncer and a community police officer, and was the subject of a 13-year investigation. (R)

11.20 5 Gold Rings. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Last Man Standing. **6.25** Last Man Standing. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **4.20** The Crystal Maze. (R) **5.25** The Great British Bake Off. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. George Clarke presents the entries in the Historic and Workshops and Studios categories. Among the finalists in these areas are a shed where a bestselling trilogy of novels were written and a build in Wales used for making prosthetic limbs for children around the world.

8.00 From Russia to Iran: Crossing the Wild Frontier. Levison Wood completes the final 1000 miles of his journey, travelling through Armenia and the Republic of Iran as he heads for the shores of the Caspian Sea. He meets a photojournalist documenting the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan for the contested state of Nagorno-Karabakh, and risks heading to the front line, where he meets a family caught in the crossfire and soldiers serving in the trenches. He also visits one of the world's largest salt lakes and joins a biker gang for a tour of Tehran. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Kingsman: The Secret Service. (2015) Premiere. A streetwise teenager is taken under the wing of his dead father's old colleague, an agent working for a super-secret spy organisation. Will the youngster prove to be a chip off the old block by proving useful during a battle against a twisted, hi-tech genius? Action comedy based on a comic book, starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Samuel L Jackson.

11.35 Film: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For. (2014) Compilation of four stories of crime and betrayal set in a dangerous city. Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke.

1.25 Bruce Springsteen: In His Words. (R) **2.50** Gillette World Sport. **3.15** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Poppy Cat. **6.10** Little Princess. (R) **6.25** Mr Men. (R) **6.35** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.40** Milkshake! Bopping About. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.55** Wissper. (R) **7.00** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.15** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.25** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.35** Floogals. (R) **8.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.15** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **1.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **2.00** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **3.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **5.05** All New Traffic Cops. (R)

6.05 All New Traffic Cops. Officers from the West Yorkshire Safer Roads team pursue a disqualified driver through Bradford, while a pensioner is knocked down in a hit-and-run incident in York. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v West Indies.

8.00 Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman introduce highlights from the second weekend of matches, including Northampton Saints v Leicester Tigers at Franklin's Gardens.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 All New Most Shocking Moments in Pop. A countdown of outrageous events and scandals from the pop world, including Grace Jones hitting Russell Harty on his chat show, George Michael's dubious driving, Solange's bust-up with Jay-Z, rock 'n' roll excess by 1970s rock band Deep Purple and the triumphant occasion when Sophie Ellis Bextor beat Victoria Beckham to the number one spot in the charts. With contributions from Rick Wakeman, Cheryl Baker, Liz McClarnon, Matt Richardson and Nina Myskow.

11.55 The Last Hours of Elvis Presley. Forensic pathologist Dr Richard Shepherd re-examines the medical evidence relating to the death of the American singer, who died in August 1977 at the age of 42. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **3.10** Liberace: In Life and Death. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Making of King Arthur **8.00** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **9.00** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **10.00** The Sky at Night **10.30** The 21st Century Race for Space **11.30** Horizon: Can We Make a Star on Earth? **12.30** Precision: The Measure of All Things **1.30** Horizon: Asteroids – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly **2.30** The Joy of Train Sets – The Model Railway Story **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.10 2Awesome: Ready, Set, Style **11.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **11.50** The X Factor **1.05** Take Me Out **2.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.40 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **4.25 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30 Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **6.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** King Kong (2005) **10.00** Family Guy **12.00** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.25 Wycliffe **1.30 Film:** Columbo: A Deadly State of Mind (1975) **3.05 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** An Audience with Victoria Wood **11.10** Foyle's War

ITV4

4.00 Pawn Stars **5.00 Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **6.00** FYI Daily **6.05 Film:** The Pink Panther (1963) **7.30** River Monsters **8.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.00** Cycling: Vuelta a Espana **11.05 Film:** United 93 (2006) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15 Film:** United 93 (2006) **1.15 Film:** Halloween H20 (1998) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** Halloween H20 (1998)

E4

11.00 Made in Chelsea: Ibiza **12.00** Don't Tell the Bride **1.00** Streetmate **2.05 Film:** Robots (2005) **3.55** Toy Story Toons: Partysaurus Rex **4.05** The Goldbergs **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Bad Teacher (2011) **10.50** Naked Attraction **11.50** Gogglebox

Film4

11.00 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **1.00** Just Wright (2010) **3.00** Carry On Cabby (1963) **4.45** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **6.35** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** Dogtooth (2009) **1.50** Cyrus (2010) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
The Frozen Ground, Channel 5, 11.05pm
An Alaska state trooper tries to bring a serial killer who has been terrorising the Anchorage area for 13 years to justice. When a woman escapes the maniac's clutches, the lawman seeks her help in identifying him, but finds he will have a hard time earning her trust. Fact-based crime drama, with Nicolas Cage, John Cusack and Vanessa Hudgens. (2013)

TUESDAY
A Wife's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman who has just recovered from a mental breakdown returns home to pick up the pieces of her life – but her plans are thrown into disarray when a teenage girl claiming to be her husband's long-lost daughter arrives on her doorstep. Drama based on a true story, starring Jennifer Beals. (2014)

WEDNESDAY
Wall of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When a university student goes missing, her mother, a former police officer, goes in search for her. But what she encounters is a wall of academia bureaucracy and cover-ups that point to an abuse of authority stemming all the way to the government. Thriller, starring Ireland Baldwin, Victoria Pratt and Morgan Taylor Campbell. (2016)

Rogue, Friday, BBC1, 12.05am

THURSDAY
Boyfriend Killer, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A grieving mother goes through her dead son's social media accounts to salvage any photos and let his friends know of his death. But when she finds some messages between him and his vindictive girlfriend, she begins to suspect the young woman may have been involved in his death. Thriller, starring Barbie Castro, Patrick Muldoon and Kate Mansi. (2017)

FRIDAY
Rogue, BBC1, 12.05am
A captain taking a group of tourists on a trip through the Australian Outback is persuaded to travel into uncharted part of the river. The travellers then discover they have strayed into the territory of a ferocious crocodile and face a battle for survival. Thriller, starring Radha Mitchell. (2007)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Duo are caught up in a web of intrigue in new series

Typical – you wait months for a new six-part series from Jack and Harry Williams, the writers and creators of The Missing, and then two come along at once.

Yes, on the same evening that BBC1 launches Rellik (killer spelled backwards, in case you were wondering), ITV brings us Liar. At first glance, the Beeb's series bears more of the Williams' hallmarks – just as The Missing played out across different timelines, Rellik starts with capture of a serial killer, and then goes back to the beginning to explore what made them into a murderer.

However, Liar has a simpler idea, which was part of the plan. The Williams siblings say: "We were excited about exploring something with more dramatic simplicity - a linear story focusing on one single incident.

"In Liar we sought to explore modern day gender politics through a narrative built upon two fundamentally conflicting recollections of one night, in a way which we hope will challenge and surprise audiences."

If that wasn't intriguing enough, the series also boasts an impressive cast, including Downton Abbey's Joanne Froggatt and one-time Fantastic Four star Ioan Gruffudd, who was tempted back from Hollywood to tackle his role in Liar.

He says: "The reason I'm back home in the UK, and back on British television for the first time in a decade is Harry and Jack's script. I received their scripts in LA, the first three episodes, and sat down to read the first one and then proceeded to read all of them in one go. I just couldn't put them down."

He stars as Andrew Earlham, a widowed surgeon who is set up on a date with his colleague's sister Laura (Froggatt), who also happens to be Andrew's son's teacher. She's been reluctant to look for love following the end of her long-term relationship, but their date initially seems to go very well.

However, the morning after it's clear that something has changed as gossip and accusations begin to circulate, and the two find themselves drawn into a web of deceit.

Gruffudd says: "When Andrew is accused it offends him greatly, his status in the community is very important to him. He's a very proud of what he has achieved, and I think it shakes him to his core, he's angry, and he's shocked. I think one of the driving forces of his anger is the fact that how he is perceived by the world has changed, and I think that really makes him angry."

But is he right to feel aggrieved? It seems that getting to the truth is not going to be easy. Gruffudd says: "Every character in the show has secrets that are revealed at some point or another. We all hide things from one another, we all tell white lies, innocent lies, and sometimes those lies can be exaggerated and can have real consequences. So, not every person in the series is who they are cracked up to be…"

Ioan Gruffudd stars in Liar, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Upstart Crow
BBC2, 8.30pm
New series. Will is desperate to make a good impression with the College of Heralds so he can get his family a coat of arms and finally make the Shakespeares posh. So when African royal Prince Otello comes to town, the aspiring playwright decides that befriending him is the perfect opportunity to make a favourable impression amongst the gentry. David Mitchell returns as William Shakespeare in Ben Elton's comedy, guest starring Steve Toussaint, with Harry Enfield, Paula Wilcox, Liza Tarbuck and Mark Heap.

TUESDAY
Horizon: Mars - A Traveller's Guide
BBC2, 9pm
The world's leading experts discuss where they would go on Mars, if they got the chance, and what they would need to survive on the planet. In the ultimate traveller's guide to Mars and using real images and data, Horizon brings Martian landmarks to life, from vast plains and towering volcanoes to deep valleys and hidden underground caverns, and also show where to land, where to live and even where to hunt for traces of extraterrestrial life. Narrated by Mark Gatiss.

WEDNESDAY
The Other One
BBC2, 10pm
A comedy about two sisters who share the same name, Catherine Walcott, but had no idea the other existed until their father passed away. One sister, Cathy, has a fiance, a Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a pension. The other sister, Cat, has a pay-as-you-go-phone. The two sisters are complete opposites in every way, and the only thing they seem to have in common are their names. Both of them have always longed for a sister – just maybe not each other. Starring Ellie White, Lauren Socha and Rebecca Front.

THURSDAY
No Limits:Vietnam
BBC1, 8pm
For the curious with long memories, this is not a revival of the old Lisa Maxwell/Jenny Powell entertainment series from 30-plus years ago. Instead, it centres on six Britons who embark on an ambitious road trip by modified motorbike and modified 4x4 along Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Trail. A tricky enough trek for the able bodied, but as everyone on the journey is disabled, travelling almost 1,000 miles, through traffic-jammed cities to mountainous rural tracks pushes our ambitious travellers to breaking point. They will be staying with remote indigenous people; exploring stunning cave systems, and meeting locals - many of who live with disability courtesy of the Vietnam War. A refreshingly different traveloguen which should inspire millions.

Comedy Playhouse: Static, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm

Lego Masters
Channel 4, 8pm
The three remaining teams are challenged to create a build that reflects the inner workings of a child's storytelling imagination. They must each listen to a six-year old's story and then have three hours to bring their tales to life using Lego. The best two then take part in the final master build, for which they have two weeks to realise a structure measuring 2x2 metres and using up to half-a-million bricks. They will be unveiled to the public at the Design Museum in London, where comedian and Lego enthusiast Dara O Briain joins Matthew Ashton to choose the winner. Last in the series.

FRIDAY
Cold Feet
ITV, 9pm
Baby-making miscommunication drives a wedge between Adam and Tina, while Karen's new business partner is concerned by the health of her accounts. Jenny inadvertently drops her colleagues in it when she tells her boss they could afford to lose a few employees. She will get to choose who makes the cut, but back home Pete is horrified by her behaviour and begins to wonder just what he has unleashed. Comedy drama, starring James Nesbitt, Leanne Best, Hermione Norris, John Thomson, Fay Ripley and Robert Bathurst.

Comedy Playhouse: Static
BBC1, 10.35pm
One-off sitcom about a man who makes plans to move back in with his parents – only to find they have sold the house and moved to a static caravan park in Margate. Co-written by and starring Rob Beckett, with Alison Steadman and Phil Davis.

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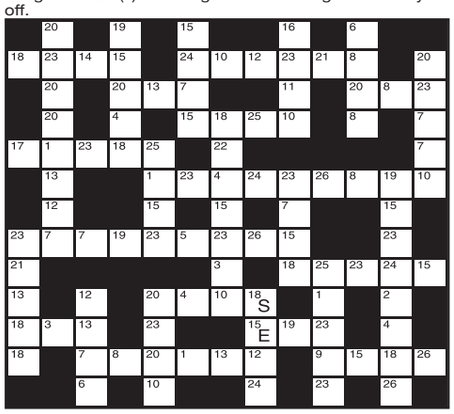
BRAIN GYM

No.446

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



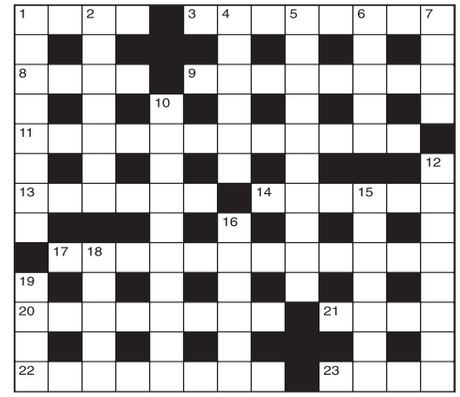
1	14
2	15 E
3	16
4	17
5	18 S
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
B	M	H	E	U	T	G	W	K	Q	Y	L	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	A	S	P	D	J	V	O	Z	C	X	N	F

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. A blow on the wrist, perhaps (4)
3. Cheers ironically when soldiers' quarters are seen (8)
8. Paper appearing again in the morning (4)
9. Crop made to be set beside others (8)
11. Bury part at the crossing (12)
13. A doctor with one foot loose (6)
14. Stagger on the street in a leisurely walk (6)
17. Study not permanent at the same time (12)
20. It's a disadvantage to lure a defender out (8)
21. Ancient Queen who achieved nothing (4)
22. Feeling that makes one hand on? (8)
23. Where the responsibility lies? (4)

Down

1. Church dignitary has vehicle to take Linda out (8)
2. Praise insincerely when some of the sparkle lost? (7)
4. Loves to read so (6)
5. Solicit again for a second occurrence (10)
6. The vehicle is to leave with freight (5)
7. The team has a pretentious air (4)
10. It's lucrative for those who are healthy and skilled (10)
12. Pleasure-loving youths in the theatre? (8)
15. Ivan, too, gets enthusiastic applause (7)
16. Hits fishing vessels (6)
18. Examinations in which results are poor also (5)
19. Poetry does, in a way (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Bucket (4)
3. Souvenir (8)
8. Plunder (4)
9. Stick out (8)
11. Teach thoroughly (12)
13. Very hot (6)
14. Smirk (6)
17. Good spirits (12)
20. Respite (8)
21. Equitable (4)
22. Uninhabited (8)
23. Otherwise (4)

Down

1. Mollify (8)
2. Fit for use (2,5)
4. Mistakes (6)
5. Impalpable (10)
6. Scepticism (5)
7. Smoke (4)
10. Fortuitous (10)
12. Keep (8)
15. Overcome (7)
16. Influence (6)
18. Obeys (5)
19. Retired (4)

Sudoku

		5						
	2		6		7		9	
		3	5		1	4		8
3			4		5			2
8							4	7
7			8	9	2			6
		1	3		4	6		
	4		7		6		8	3
			2					

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

2	5	9	7	6	1	8	4	3
7	8	4	5	3	2	9	6	1
1	3	6	4	8	9	7	2	5
4	9	5	2	1	6	3	8	7
8	1	2	3	9	7	6	5	4
3	6	7	8	5	4	1	9	2
6	4	8	1	2	3	5	7	9
9	2	3	6	7	5	4	1	8
5	7	1	9	4	8	2	3	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Masterpiece; 9 Trips up; 10 Awash; 11 Theta; 12 Sweater; 13 Poster; 15 Sparse; 18 Perches; 20 Aorta; 22 Rated; 23 Expound; 24 Threatening. Down: 2 Amine; 3 Testate; 4 Repose; 5 Image; 6 Chapter; 7 State papers; 8 Chargehands; 14 Scratch; 16 Playpen; 17 Ascent; 19 Hedge; 21 Rouen.
QUICK - Across: 1 Fashionable; 9 Riddled; 10 Outre; 11 Panic; 12 Teacher; 13 Neatly; 15 Status; 18 Unaware; 20 Put on; 22 Trend; 23 Diocese; 24 Predominate. Down: 2 Add on; 3 Helical; 4 Oddity; 5 Aroma; 6 Latchet; 7 Propinquity; 8 Represented; 14 Amateur; 16 Typhoon; 17 Seldom; 19 Aided; 21 Treat.

Quiz

1. Which actor married ex-Pan's People dancer Babs Lord in 1975?
2. To which family of fish does the bream belong?
3. In which year did China's elder statesman Deng Xiaoping die?
4. How many symphonies did Brahms write?
5. What is another name for common heather?
6. How many ares are there in a hectare?
7. Which Kirov Ballet star defected in 1970?
8. Which Royal residence was rebuilt by John Nash in 1821-36?
9. Which Verdi opera is based on the Dumas novel The Lady of the Camellias?
10. What was J Arthur Rank's first name?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 The Eucharist; 2 Fez; 3 One pound coin; 4 Saccharin; 5 Peter Cook; 6 Master of the King's Musick; 7 Brandy; 8 Bratislava; 9 Berkshire; 10 Heidi.

Niner: NURSEMAID

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

648496254 gives a creepy crawly,
377657 gives a second creepy crawly,
4961 gives creepy crawlies.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Finnish off with Moomin magic

TOSSED between clawing waves with only a wooden oar and magician's top hat, Moominpappa embarks on a whimsical journey to find a distant lighthouse.

It's 34 years since I read the story of a snouty patriarch who frolics with seahorses and befriends The Groke, a desperately lonely figure scarred with a permanent scowl, who turns ground to ice wherever she treads.

But I do recall a handwritten inscription in my copy of Moominpappa At Sea, promising the Moomins would take me on a special adventure one day.

Now I'm standing in front of a first edition illustrated book sleeve, part of a 2,000-strong collection of drawings, triptychs and related paraphernalia on rotated display at the world's only Moomin Museum, which recently opened in Tampere, a two-hour train ride north from Helsinki.

Visitors to the impressive Helsinki Cathedral

The Rauhaniemi public sauna in Tampere

PHENOMENON

Since Finnish artist, sculptor and illustrator Tove Jansson published her first book in 1945, the magical Moominvalley has become a worldwide cult phenomenon; children are drawn to the playful, fanciful characters, while the droll humour and philosophical allegories resonate with an older audience.

Tove's Moomin work was donated to the Tampere Art Museum in 1986, after Helsinki City Museum declined the collection on the basis it wasn't 'proper art'. A temporary exhibition of 100 pieces in the Tampere gallery's basement lasted for three decades, until structural damage resulted in an evacuation three years ago.

Moomin Museum Director Taina Myllyharju was given an 'almost unlimited' budget to employ the best architects, artists and designers in her quest for creating a new space in the park-fringed Tampere Hall.

A reading library stocks the 12 Moomin books in multiple languages, and a shop sells themed postcards and stamps (conveniently, there's a postbox on site) and exclusive merchandise given the seal of approval by Tove's niece, Sophia Jansson.

"We even have the world's only Moomin conservator," Taina proudly proclaims.

Restoring the works, particularly the detailed triptychs Tove worked on with her life partner, graphic artist Tuulikki Pietila, was a painstaking business. Often, the women would use anything they could find lying around in the summer cottage they shared on remote island Klovharu. These colourful 3D scenes were ephemeral snatches of imagination; they weren't designed to last.

Crossing a wasteland on spindly, insect-leg stilts, Moomintroll and Sniff stare up at a cobweb-shrouded model schooner. The Jansson family heirloom forms the centrepiece of a tableau from the apocalyptic Comet in Moominland, which critics have linked to post-war gloom and the looming spectre of nuclear attacks.

And in another carefully crafted model, pieces of Pietila's and Tove's own jewellery festoon a winter scene where Christmas is a fearful creature who must be appeased with a fir tree.

I get the impression that with every seashell collected and each piece of Styrofoam painted and glued, the two artists climbed further into their fantasy world and the act of doing became a form of escapism.

Under the cover of darkness, I comfortably sink into the Moomin's make-believe world, with the help of several interactive displays

SARAH MARSHALL

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Steel firm workers awarded

WORKERS who lost their jobs when a Darlaston steel firm went into administration have been awarded up to nearly £50,000 after complaining they were not given enough warning.

Caparo Atlas Fastenings Ltd went into administration in 2015 putting about 129 employees on the dole after facing problems.

As a result the union Unite – formerly the Transport and General Workers Union – made legal claims for protective awards for the redundant workers at Birmingham Employment Tribunal after complaining the employers failed to carry out suitable consultations under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act.

The average total for each employee could be £3,500 or more – making a total of up to £50,000.

Overhead line hit on Metro

COMMUTERS faced disruption as an overhead line failure put another part of the Midland Metro out of action.

Normal services were only running from Wednesbury Parkway towards Birmingham last Tuesday morning after the failure at Priestfield in Wolverhampton.

Emergency repairs then saw the Metro only operating from Black Lake in West Bromwich.

FOCUS ON WEDNESBURY

Residents' joy as they win fight to get rid of bollard

A BOLLARD placed at the entrance of a block of flats housing up to 80 elderly residents has been removed after fears they could block access for emergency vehicles.

More than 100 people signed a petition to see the bollard removed at the entrance of Russell House in Wednesbury. Council bosses removed them last week after increasing pressure from ward councillors, who also backed the campaign.

By Luke Bartlett

Councillor Hughes said: "I feel good about it, I think its going to be really good for the residents.

"We had a meeting regarding this, they're going to be Tarmacking the front area so cars will be able to pull on and drop people off.

Ambulances

"The front, a lot of people use it for taxis, old people in the blocks they come back with taxis, now they're having to to walk round to get in.

"The other thing is the fire and ambulance is another problem, having that bollard there we cant get to the front door.

"We have had a couple of ambulances that couldn't get there and they had to go through the back doors."

The bollard was said to have been in place for up to six months at the block, which is based off Holyhead Road inthe town, before a petition was put together and backed by the councillors.

Councillor Kerrie Carmichael, who is Sandwell Borough Council's cabinet member for housing, said: "We have removed a collapsible bollard from outside Russell House following concerns raised by residents."

"We are also making further improvements to the entrance of Russell House to make access better for residents.

"We will continue talking to residents to make sure they're happy with the new access arrangements."

Wednesbury's Jonny Cole, who is the mastermind behind a comedy night

Cole gets a kick out of stadium comedy venture

COMEDY fans will be able to get their kicks at Walsall Football Club in a forthcoming feast of laughter, organised by a comedian from Wednesbury.

The Just For Kicks show, to be staged at the Banks's Stadium on October 27, is the mastermind of comic Jonny Cole. It will feature TV comics Joe Lycett, from Birmingham, and Phoenix Nights' Archie Kelly alongside Dudley's Wayne Beese.

Cole is the driving force and he hopes to make it a regular feature. The former diesel salesman has emerged as an unstoppable musical-comedy force since his re-workings of well-known tunes have proved popular with audiences all over Britain. He was a headline act on the UK tour of A Black Country Night Out and has been a regular on local radio shows.

Cole said: "I'm really excited about this venture and hopefully it will become an on-going thing. The football club are right behind me and have given me the freedom to deliver a great night to remember."

Early bird tickets at £14 are available from the Banks's on 01922 651416 or eticketing.co.uk/walsallfc. For details contact Jonny Cole on 07376 248521 or Wayne Thomas on 07551 170675.

School site is sold off

PLANS to build a care home on the site of a former school could be resurrected after the land was put on the market for £1 million. Planning permission was granted for a two-storey care home on the Kings Hill School site in Wednesbury in 2012, but has yet to come to fruition.

The site previously housed the Kings Hill School before it was demolished in 1992.

Plans for the 60 and 16-bedroom care facility were previously approved for the site, with it being thought that the larger home would provide care for the elderly, while the smaller would be used by adults with dementia, learning difficulties and mental health issues.

In 2008, Sandwell Council sold the land to the rear of Joynson Street when it was declared surplus to requirements.

It is now owned and put on the market by Birmingham-based mortgage broker Christie & Co.

A sale advert states that although plans have now lapsed for the site, they could be re-submitted.

The company hold various planning documents and environmental reports on the site which they state will be made available for 'seriously interested buyers'. They also own No.1 Joynson Street which is currently being used as a residential dwelling.

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

A three-bed home packed with the 'wow factor'

A property packed with the "wow factor", this three bedroomed home in Harrold Road, Rowley Regis, comes with parking and a garage, an "awesome garden" and a first floor balcony.

Also featuring ponds and outhouses in the beautiful garden, it is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers in excess of £149,950.

A spokesman for loveyourpostcode.com said: "There's just nothing to be done other than to pick up your belongings and move straight in. Once you step over the threshold the porch provides immediate access to the open plan lounge and diner with double doors leading to the garden. The kitchen benefits from integrated appliances and a new style modern, yet sleek finish. You will find a cloak/storage room under the stairs. The property is light and airy throughout."

Outside the garden is sunny, private and vast for a property this style. If you love shrubs, ponds and brick-built out houses, this one is perfect.

To the first floor there are three bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The master bedroom has double doors leading to a spacious decked balcony.

The property further has gas central heating, double glazing and solar panels.

The loveyourpostcode.com spokesman added: "There's no need to worry about parking your car. This property has a garage to the rear and enough space on the front for two cars."

The selling agents are expecting the sale of this property to generate an awful lot of interest among would-be buyers.

loveyourpostcode.com opened its first estate agency in 2007 and has gone on to creating a modern award winning approach to selling, renting and managing thousands of properties each year.

Over the years it has benchmarked itself as one of the most recognisable independently owned property brands in Birmingham. Its core values have never changed, they have always been keen to deliver an exceptional customer experience based upon honesty and integrity.

ROWLEY REGIS £149,950

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- Impressive garden
- 3 bedrooms
- Contemporary bathroom

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Modern property has an awful lot to offer

In a popular development of modern and new-style homes, this three-bedroomed town house in Lyttleton Street, West Bromwich is for sale through loveyourpostcode.com at offers over £174,950.

There is a utility/storage room and a ground floor single bedroom/ further reception area with its own wet room.

On the first floor there is a reception room. A truly lovely and

WEST BROMWICH £174,950

inviting room to relax and entertain friends & family, a modern and neutral décor complemented with a balcony door access. Alongside the reception room, is a kitchen/ diner room which is finished to high modern standard. It has integrated appliances and plenty of space for a table and chairs. The third floor has two double bedrooms and a Jack and Jill family bathroom. Each bedroom is fully carpeted.

The home also has its own garden, a garage and allocated parking. The local area is perfect for working professionals, and nearby are shopping complexes, local schooling and restaurants.

For information, or to book a viewing, contact loveyourpostcode.com on 0800 862 0870.

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3 1 1

End of terrace property in need of cosmetic improvement but offering good sized accommodation and situated in a popular and convenient location. Double glazing, gas central heating, gardens to front and rear, secure parking to rear. EPC Rating E.

TIPTON
EAGLE LANE £279,950

4 2 1

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Extended traditional semi-detached house offering situated in a sought after location opposite West Smethwick Park with side verandah, central heating, double glazing, tarmac driveway to front and large private established rear garden. EPC Rating D

TIVIDALE
NEW BIRMINGHAM ROAD £220,000

2 2 1

A detached bungalow in need of general updating and decoration but offering good sized accommodation. Central heating, double glazing, established gardens to front and rear, double garage and off-road parking. EPC Rating F

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BEXLEY GROVE £169,950

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Traditional semi-detached house in need of general updating and with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Potential for extension subject to planning. Double glazing, central heating (where specified) conservatory, off-road parking and rear garden. EPC Rating E

OLDBURY
POUND ROAD £164,950

3 1 1

End of terrace house offering good sized accommodation in corner location with potential for extension, subject to planning. Gas central heating, double glazing, garden to front, low maintenance private rear garden and block paved driveway. EPC Rating D

OLDBURY
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TO LET

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GRAFTON ROAD £700 pcm

3 3 1

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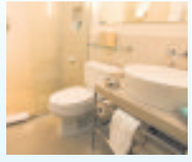

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massage

MOBILE Aromatherapy Massage Therapist Home / Hotel. To book appointments call 07437 569187.

what's on

table top sale

IN DOOR CAR BOOT SALE
Saturdays
September 9, 16 & 30, 10am.
St Mark's Church Hall,
Ocker Hill Road, Tipton,
DY4 0UT
Tables from £5.
Hall open from 9.30am

3 Home & Services

household appliances

A ONE OFF BIG SALE
Cookers, Fires, Autos, Tumble dryers, Built in ovens, Hobs, Fridge freezers, lots more at low prices.
01902 403770
—— Past & Present ——
24 - 26 church street, Bilston (opposite town hall).

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

furniture

katharine house hospice — embracing life and living
Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

DINING ROOM SUITE
Solid Mahogany. 4roll back chairs,table,sideboard bookcase/display cabinet. As new.
Coven area.
£375 ono
07774499891

FURNITURE NOT SOLD? Donate it to Katharine House Hospice. We collect for free. Telephone Cannock 01543 466885, Stafford 01785 247630, House clearance service 01785 760715.

in your garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£17 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

BLOXWICH FENCING
Supply and Fit or DIY
Credit cards taken • Free quotes WS3 2BQ
Freephone 0500 506041 or 01922 712184

2 IN 1 ELECTRIC rake and scarifier, almost new, only used once, £50. Owner downsizing. 07716 869618.

items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION
All reclaimed building materials
UPVC doors and windows
New and Used
Gatehouse Trading Est. Lichfield Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JZ
01543 453222
07956 627367

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

WANTEDBodgers Tools (Woodworking). As cheap as possible for schools project. 07410 949649.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

A Genuine Lady Buyer!
Cash paid £300+ per ounce for 9 car- at scrap gold. Any amount collected!
Sovereigns £200+ each, Watches, Coins, Medals & more
Highly Recommended!
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Frank Bosworth
Furniture
IN LIQUIDATION
EVERYTHING MUST GO
All Fashion Beds - Sleigh Beds, Metal, Iron and Ottoman Beds
PLUS UPTO 12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT (SUBJECT TO STATUS)
Over 1000 Mattresses in stock whether its Budgets, Orthopaedic, Memory Foam or Pocket Sprung. We are your One Stop Bed Shop - We manufacture every conceivable mattress at the lowest factory direct prices - Cheap Junior Matts from £29.00 - Medium quality matts from £39.00 - Ortho and Memory Foam from £59.00 - Complete Divan Beds from £79.00 - Fashion & Bunk Beds in designer metal and wood. Ottoman Storage and Drawer Divans - You name it we have got it at the right price made to measure sizes and special requests a speciality. Factory Shop open 7 days major credit cards welcome
LEATHER & FABRIC RECLINER CHAIRS UPTO 70% OFF DISPLAY MODELS
EG GUVNOR RECLINERIN WINE WAS £999 NOW £299
SAVE UPTO 50% OFF ON-LINE PRICES
100'S OF LEATHER & FABRIC SOFAS, CORNER SUITES AND RECLINER SUITES - MANY HALF PRICE
Open Everyday 10am-6pm OPEN SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM
BFC FACTORY OUTLET
CONEYGRE ROAD IND EST, GREAT BRIDGE RD, TIPTON DY4 8XF.
OFF A461 2 MINS FROM NEW TESCO & TOBY CARVERY
0121 557 6885
VISA INTEREST FREE CREDIT (T/C'S APPLY) MasterCard

WANTED
VINTAGE TOYS
Starwars, He-Man, Ghost Busters, NinjaTurtles, Corgi or Dinky.
All vintage toys considered, good prices paid.
Unleash the cash in your loft.
Call Tony on 07812 903338.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS
Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

CLIENT COMPUTERS Certified technician and microsoft partner. Repair and maintain laptops and pcs. Virus removal, broken screens, wifi, windows problem etc. Laptops available. 0121 556 9481

specialists at your service

aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS Checkatrade.com
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros. Call 07795 651050 / 07801 746853.

bathrooms

BATHROOM DESIGN All bathrooms fitted, tiling, flooring, complete bathrooms: 07850 382548.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

AD DAMP PROOFING
APPROVED CONTRACTOR
All damp problems, roofing, building & plastering work
FREE QUOTES
07538 118034 or 01902 752161

A GRIFFITHS ROOFING & BUILDING Pitched & flat roofs, repairs, chimneys, fascias, guttering. 35 yrs exp. 07941 907401/01902 865771.

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARDWOOD FLOORING @ low prices. Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

SPR CARPENTRY Six internal prepримed doors fully fitted from £370. 0121 5322672 or 07958 552625.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

damp proof control

JUST DAMP PROOFING
All Areas Covered
Sovereign approved damp proofer
Up to 30 years
Backed Guarantee available
Call 07903 029768

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representatives and would recommend them to anyone! They have done a very professional job with my website so I get online enquiries as well now."
Michael- Portway Fencing

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

H. COOPER & SON Landscaping / garden maintenance. No job too small, Free Quotes: 07904 929632.

J&B TREE CARE Landscape and Jetwashing Services. All Pesticide /Fungicide work. Free fixed quotes: 07786 166856/ 01922 449268.

gas fitting

GH PLUMBING
Free Quotes, Gas safe services. Luxury bathrooms supplied & fitted. Landlord Certs. Service & repairs, power flushing, boiler replacements, full central heating systems
07921 800665 | www.ghplumbingltd.co.uk

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

gates

ALL METAL GATES,RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07903 500642 24 hours.

DARLASTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/ fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

handyman services

THANK YOU CLASSIFIEDS!

I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels.
Mr Causer.

For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

HANDY MAN - Most trades, plumbing, heating, gardening & decorating. Gutter clean no ladders, free quotes. 07850 559315.

LOCK & CARPENTRY Plumbing, Small job specialist. Free quotes 01902 683100 or 07934 460864.

house clearances

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

A1 HOUSE CLEARANCE
Full, part and single rubbish removed.
Garage and sheds cleared.
Leather 3 piece suites and leather chesterfields wanted.
01922 492007

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER Over 20 years experience. Call 07881 654757 or 01543 373233.

lock services

LOCKRITE local father and daughter locksmiths, lock-outs, broken locks, UPVC specialist, 24hr service. 01922 780078.

painters / decorators

LADY DECORATOR Full house or one wall to customer requirements. Free quotes call: 07522 643706.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

MINT PLASTERING & rendering 30 yrs exp. All work guaranteed. 01922 606503 or 07519 694516.

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Clean and Reliable, All Work Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbing & heating

ALL PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN
No job too small or large.
Call Will for a free quote
07521 411108

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING All gas work. Install/ Service/ Repair. Free quotes call: 07540 950588.

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call: 07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on: 07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

KT REMOVALS 12 yrs exp. Single items to full load removals. Local / distance. Call Ric: 07771 727119.

Buy and sell with ClassifiedAds

1. Visit our ClassifiedAds website

classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2. Call our Classified sales team on **01902 317 878**

3. Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, **SELL** LOCAL

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

ClassifiedAds

01902 317878 | bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

We specialise in:
New Roofing, Re Roofing, Leak Repairs, Emergency Repairs, Lead Work, Tiling and Slating.
07476 834512 0121 4204374
www.stoppsandpage.co.uk

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

A absolute affordable skip
RUSSELL SKIPS
Mini, midi skips
Prompt delivery / collection
(0121) 520 3388 / 07721 387990

GOLDSHILL SKIPS
Bring your own waste cheaper than skips. General, Green, Wood waste any size vehicle. Phone for prices:
0121 557 3346

AAA SKIP HIRE All sizes available, competitive prices. Call: 01922 711411(option 2) or 07592 940556.

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stonesskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

POODLE DOG SPECIALIST
Clipping and Grooming.
Free Quotes Call:
07855 405022 or 01543 876145

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

business directory

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios *from* **£90pw***
Rooms *from* **£65pw***
**Includes Most Bills*
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
Midland Landlord Accreditation Scheme
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

HEDNESFORD HOUSE modern 3 bedroom.parking, garden. No DSS rent £550. 07967 375565.

STUDIO FLAT All amenities, low deposit, vacant, near Sandwell Hospital. 07828 504083.

flats for sale

LUXURY APARTMENT

Lichfield, Cairns Close.

Stunning 955 sq.ft Duplex, built 2 years ago, part of Malt House conversion.

Secure gated intercom entrance.

2 bedrooms 1 en-suite, open plan Kitchen/ Diner/ Lounge and principle bathroom .

1 allocated parking space,

visitors parking available.

£280,000.

Details Connells 01543 262376.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
FAST 4 Your House CASH
You agree the price, we buy the house...
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500 30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

engineering

PRESS OPERATOR
38 hours per week, Mon-Thurs 7.30-1615, Fri 7.30-12.30
Birmingham, Temporary basis, £7.50 per hour.
Our client is a family business established in Birmingham for 150 years. They specialise in the design, build and manufacture of both precision press tools and components.
The role will include: Operation of both automated and manual presswork machines; First line quality control checks and measures to set standards; Order quantity and packing tasks; Supporting the press setter; Material handling; Booking accurate production data through the computer system Navision; Support and involvement for the company's 5s programme; Working to health and safety standards and incident reporting procedure.
If you are interested in applying for this position please contact Star Employment Services on 01902 319 333 or email CV to jobs@staremploymentservices.co.uk

hotel & catering

COOK REQUIRED

To work at Wood Green Nursing Home in Wednesbury.

Qualification in hospitality and experience of food preparation and catering desirable.

Good communication skills. Able to work as a team and on own initiative.

Call 0121 5560381 or email woodgreen@friendlycare.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

CITROEN DS5 STYLE
2 litre HDI 160, 62 Reg, 43K, FSH, MoT, Panoramic roof, Sat Nav, Leather seats, Cruise Control, Reversing camera.
£7,350 ono
Cannock 07877 536948 / 01543 899490

dentistry

DENTAL NURSES AND RECEPTIONISTS required, GDC registered, Flexible hours F/T, P/T available - 7 days per week (8am - 11pm) Wage 12K - 20 k - negotiable, overtime & bonuses Immediate starts Apprenticeships available email CV info@scottarmsdentalpractice.com

full time - general

CATEGORY C ADR DRIVER
BUSE

BUSES GASES are looking to recruit a Category C ADR Driver to drive vehicles up to category C. Main duties will be to deliver and collect (various sizes and types of gases) in cylinders / cans using own vehicles.

Responsibilities.
* To deliver/collect gas cylinders nationwide
* Complete delivery paperwork (e.g. Serial numbers and quantity of cylinders delivered/collected).
* Other factory / yard duties (When there is a shortage of deliveries)

Key qualifications
* Minimum Category C Full clean UK driving license
* ADR certificate with class 2 Gases
* FLT license for loading/unloading (preferable)

Competencies and skills
* Good communication skills with customers
* Strapping and securing loads onto vehicles
* Recording cylinder information on transport paperwork (e.g. Faulty stock returns).

In first instance please apply by email, including CV, to Alan Ferris - alan@busegases.com
Closing Date: Friday 15th September 2017

M.E.S.
Machinery Engineering Services Limited

COIL SPRING MAKER / MACHINE SETTER
Full time or part time
An interesting and varied role with primary duties including spring making, using Bennett Mahler coiling machines and tool setting on a variety of machines and hand presses. Additional opportunities exist within the organisation for the right candidate, including tool making and duties in other production departments.
Post your CV to
MES Ltd, Middlemore Lane West, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8BG

Express & Star
FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

Contact **Tracey Thompson** on **01902 319645** or email **tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk**

*All prices are subject to VAT

ClassifiedAds

FOR A QUICK SALE

HYUNDAI i30

2016, 1.4 petrol,

5Dr hatchback, reverse camera, Sat nav, 10,300 miles,

one previous owner.

£9,150.

07828 749540

or

0121 558 7148.

KIA SPORTAGE

1.7CRDi ISG4 (top spec)

2015/65 reg, 12,300 miles, excellent, one owner. None better at this price, warranty until 2022.

Sunroof, sat nav, reversing camera, parallel parking, bluetooth, voice recognition, Diamond Bright etc etc.

£15,950.

07943 347562.

KIA SPORTAGE

2009, 81,500 Miles, black, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, long MoT, pas, sunroof, Alloys, CD, Leather Interior,

4WD, two bar,

£4,100 ono

07990584369

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

PEUGEOT 107

3Dr, 61 plate, in red, 8 months MoT, 22,000 miles, CD/radio, immobiliser, EW, CL, low insurance group, £30 per year RFL, excellent condition

inside and out.

£3,295 o.n.o.

07935 180184.

TOYOTA AYGO X-PRESSION

2015, 5,800 miles, silver, air bag, air con, fsh, metallic paint,

one owner, pas, alloys.

£6,550.

07799 151070.

cars under £1500

BARGAIN

CITROEN C5 ESTATE

2003, diesel,

very good condition,

full MoT.

£775 ono

01922 479743. 07866 823209.

MUST BE SEEN

FORD MONDEO DIESEL

2006.

Silver.

117,000 miles.

Long MoT.

Used daily.

Good condition.

£625 ono.

07817 868935.

KIA CERATO LX

2004, 60,000 miles from new, two owners, long MoT, very

good condition,

£550 ono.

07742 904992.

NISSAN MICRA, 2008

80,000 miles, blue, top spec model, alloys, 6 CD changer, aux, auto wipers and lights, Bluetooth technology. Part

service history and long MoT.

£1,300 ono.

07586 247770.

DIESEL

RENAULT KANGOO VAN 1.5 DIESEL

MoT February, 90,000 miles, 53

reg., good runner.

£500 ono

07512 507176.

BARGAIN

V W BEETLE

2001, 1600, MoT'd till March,

drive away

£750.

No offers.

07864 842076.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT

Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available

0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to

Marie Hogg on 01902 713146

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

ELAINE PATRICIA BRANNON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 10 Astley Close Tipton West Midlands, who died on 25/05/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months and one day of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

REES PAGE
8-12 Waterloo Road Wolverhampton
West Midlands WV1 4BL *T505277*

JOHN BENNETT (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Poplars Nursing Home 66 South Road Smethwick West Midlands, who died on 09/07/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 10/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

SILKS SOLICITORS LIMITED
27 Birmingham Street Oldbury
West Midlands B69 4DY *T510397*

LINDA BLANCHE JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 49 Rayford Drive West Bromwich B71 3QW, who died on 09/03/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months and one day from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BACHES SOLICITORS LLP
Lombard House Cronehills Linkway
West Bromwich B70 7PL *T508546*

PATRICIA JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 13 Oldbury Street Wednesbury West Midlands WS10 0QJ, who died on 23/06/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 10/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BACHES SOLICITORS
Lombard House Cronehills Linkway
West Bromwich West Midlands B70 7PL *T510157*

JOHN ANTHONY PEASLEY (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 102 Bowden Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 7NX, who died on 19/05/2010, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 15/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Heselwood & Grant Solicitors,
4a Clifton Square, Lytham,
Lancashire FY8 5JP. Ref: PR000417

MARGARET ANN PEASLEY (otherwise Margaret Ann Dawson) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 102 Bowden Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 7NX, who died on 16/04/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 15/11/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Heselwood & Grant Solicitors,
4a Clifton Square, Lytham,
Lancashire FY8 5JP. Ref: PR000323

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Planning
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60868	Whitbread PLC	Land Adjacent Petrol Filling Station Congregation Way West Bromwich	Proposed erection of hotel and pub/restaurant with associated access, parking and landscaping.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60902	Mr Andrew Parker Folkes Properties Limited	Unit 1 Britannia Park Trident Drive Wednesbury WS10 7XB	Proposed extension to B8 (storage and distribution) warehouse with first floor mezzanine.

This is a major application.

DC/17/60916	Mr Bali Gill Gorge Fabrications Ltd	Site Of The Mill Public House Beaconview Road West Bromwich	Proposed residential development consisting of 32 No. 1 and 2 bed apartments with 38 associated car parking spaces.

The application may affect the character or appearance of a conservation area.

DC/17/60887	Wexham Homes Ltd	Land Adjacent 20 Spring Head Wednesbury	Proposed 3 storey development comprising of 3 No. retail units and 9 No. apartments (outline application for access, appearance, layout and scale).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.45a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.45a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR JAN BRITTON, Chief Executive

10 Personals

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The two teams line up ahead of the charity football match, Phoenix in red and the Midland Ace Legends in blue

Chris Marsh, Chris Nicholl, Wayne Thomas and Ray Graydon

Former footballers Tony Daley, Chris Marsh and Peter Bodak

Ex-Albion, Wolves and Walsall striker Don Goodman in action

Phoenix rise to occasion against old favourites

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joseph Masi

A HOST of football favourites rolled back the years in an exhibition match to raise money for grassroots football.

Stars including Don Goodman, Martin O'Connor, Tony Daley, Lee Naylor and James Chambers were all in attendance as a Midland Ace Legends side played out a 3-2 thriller with Walsall Phoenix Veterans.

The event was held to raise funds for Phoenix, who ply their trade in the Staffordshire County Senior League Premier Division.

In glorious sunshine at Aldridge Cricket Club, more than 1,500 people packed in to watch the game and enjoy a host of other attractions including live music, food stalls, bouncy castles, inflatable games and a licensed bar. There was also a 20-team football tournament with junior sides from across the region.

Walsall heroes Ray Graydon and Chris Nicholl took charge of the Midlands Ace Legends' side.

Delighted

But the managerial greats couldn't add another win to their glittering CVs – with Phoenix running out victors.

Their boss, Tom Revitt, admitted he was delighted with how the day went.

"It was absolutely great for our lads to play against some big names," he said.

"To share a pitch with someone like Don Goodman is great for people, like me, who have always enjoyed playing lower league football.

"We had a great turnout, more than 1,500. And what was nice is that football was only half the day. We had live bands, plenty of entertainment for children and a junior football tournament as well.

"It took a lot of work but it's crucial we hold events like this.

"As a club we have got 25 teams now and the cost to run them last year was £60,000.

"We don't have the opportunity to bring in big money through sponsorship – although some of the local businesses do help.

"This event will prove a huge benefit for us in terms of raising money to keep paying those running costs. We hope it will be the first of many."

The Midlands Ace Legends side had been put together by former Walsall midfielder Wayne Thomas. He is now hoping to hold more fundraising matches with other grassroots sides, as well as charities, across the region.

"We put together the Midlands Ace Legends because at charity days or fundraisers there is an appeal to have players who have played for different clubs across the region," Thomas said.

"Chris Marsh is a very good friend of mine and has a lot of contacts.

"We put this side together so when people ask about fundraising days we can cater for all football fans in the West Midlands.

"We had a lovely day, a great turnout and hopefully we'll be able to support other clubs and charities in the future." Arguably the biggest draw on the day was former Saddlers boss Graydon, who twice won promotion during his time in charge at the Banks's Stadium.

The former Villa winger also netted the winning goal in the 1975 League Cup final.

And the 70-year-old, who now lives in Hampshire, admitted he thoroughly enjoyed being back in the Midlands.

"It was fantastic for me to be back around supporters of Walsall," he said. "I absolutely loved it. I wanted to come back because I think events like this are so important.

"It costs an awful lot of money to run a football club, just to keeping going, so I'm very happy to help."

Spectator Maurice Walsh, from Bloxwich, said everyone enjoyed the day.

"I really enjoyed it and it was great to get autographs from the ex-pros," he said.

"I think having a Midlands Ace Legends side is a very good way to raise money for grassroots football."

Kenny Mower and Wayne Thomas

Action from the fundraising clash in Aldridge

Sparring partners go head-to-head in ring

MANNY ZABER and Jack Summers will renew acquaintances after the draw for Black Country Boxing's Super Series: The Super Featherwights was made.

Eight Midlands boxers will compete over three nights to be crowned the Midlands Area Super Featherweight Champion. Quarter-finals take place at Walsall Town Hall on Sunday, October 15, over six three-minute rounds.

Old Hill's Zaber and West Bromwich's Summers are both managed by BCB head of boxing, Errol Johnson, and have shared the ring countless times as sparring partners. Zaber boasts a superior record but Summers is a tough competitor who will be looking to cause an upset.

Chasetown's Luke Jones steps in with Leicester's Joe Ducker.

There's a Second City derby as Birmingham's Paul Holt meets fellow Brummie Waqas Mohammed, while former stablemates and fellow Tamworth residents Louis Fielding and Tamworth's Josh Baillie go head-to-head.

Players on oche for more Grand Slams

THERE will be, at least, another two Grand Slam of Darts at Wolverhampton Civic Hall after the PDC released their tournament calendar for 2018.

The competition will see its 10th anniversary at the Civic in the usual month of November and will also return next year.

Holder Michael Van Gerwen will be back for this year's Slam, from November 11-19. Six-time winner, 57-year-old Phil Taylor, will be featuring for the last time.

New sponsors have come on board to back the next two Grand Slams, Austrian-based betting company Bwin replacing Thai brewers Singha Beer.

Tipton's Jamie Hughes is on course to be the Black Country presence, due to his world ranking of No.3 with rival organisation the BDO. One player from the BDO will feature in each of the eight groups with those certain of their places being Glen Durrant and Danny Noppert, plus the Grand Slam debut of Peter Machin, 2017 World trophy winner.

The 2018 Grand Slam has been booked at the Civic for November 10-18.

Diamonds shatter Tividale's dreams

Tividale 2 Rushden 3

TIVIDALE produced a tremendous performance, led twice but in the end just came up short and succumbed to a hat-trick from AFC Rushden & Diamonds striker Nabil Shariff. On the half-hour mark Bladen flicked the ball into the space behind the Diamonds back four and the jet-heeled Dan Smith sprinted on to it and fired across Heath and into the back of the net.

Diamonds quickly made amends after the interval.

Ben Ford played the ball into Shariff and he bent a beauty into the top left-hand corner of Cheshire's net from 25 yards.

However, in the 62nd minute, Tividale were back ahead after Smith headed the ball over the keeper, following a free kick.

On 67 minutes, it was all square again, Shariff sidefooting home a Joel Gyasi cross. Eleven minutes later there was another fine save from Cheshire, this time denying Diamond sub Claudio Hoban, but the ball fell to Shariff, who managed to stab the ball home at the second attempt.

Sport

Phoenix rise to occasion against old favourites

Page 35

Burke backs Baggies for 'big things'

OLIVER BURKE is confident Albion can achieve 'big things' this season after a fruitful transfer window – and he's hoping to be one of the reasons behind the success.

The 20-year-old winger, who joined the Baggies for £15 million, says he learnt a lot at RB Leipzig last season. Even though the Nottingham Forest academy product struggled to get into the Bundesliga club's starting line-up, he doesn't regret his year in Germany.

He turned down the possibility of Champions League football with Leipzig to join Albion, but says it was for purely 'selfish' reasons.

"It's been a problem, not getting much game-time," admitted Burke. "The more you play, the more confident you are. When I was at Leipzig, I was coming on for the last 10 or 20 minutes, and the game has kind of gone then.

"Moving to West Brom is obviously going to help me and I think Tony Pulis believes in me a lot. We can achieve big things here," he said."

Skipper Perry hopes to lead Heathens

CRADLEY skipper Tom Perry is facing a race against time to be fit for their crucial weekend.

The Albrighton racer was involved in a heat two horror crash as he guested for King's Lynn in their SGB Premiership clash with Wolverhampton at Monmore Green on Monday.

Perry suffered an arm injury and the Motor Market Heathens now face an anxious wait to see if he will be fit to take his place in their line-up with three meetings in the space of four days.

They will head to Belle Vue in the first leg of their Knockout Cup quarter-final tomorrow, Friday (7.30) before a crucial away clash at Mildenhall in the National League on Sunday (3pm).

Their hectic few days will come to a conclusion as they host Eastbourne at Monmore Green on Monday (7.30).

Darlaston hope to keep on winning

AFTER a two-week absence West Midlands League Division One side Darlaston Town (1874) FC return to league action on Saturday, at the Paycare Ground, against Worcester Raiders.

Darlaston are unbeaten in their opening four league games whilst Raiders have just one loss so a tough encounter is in store. Despite the absence of fixtures manager Andy Parkes has been busy in the transfer market with two incomings and one outgoing at The Paycare Ground-based club. Parkes was delighted when he secured the signature of former Hinckley and Chasetown forward Tyrone Clarke O'Connell.

It all bodes well for Wednesbury

Wednesbury RUFC 36 Spartans 5

THIS week Wednesbury played their second and final warm-up game before their league campaign starts.

The game was played as a squad game playing four 20 minute periods, allowing both sides to make changes. The first quarter saw both sides testing their opposition with no real breakthroughs although Wednesbury created more chances.

The second quarter saw Wednesbury pick up the pace putting Spartans under increasing pressure, this paid off with seven minutes of the quarter gone Wednesbury won the ball in their own half and with a slick passing move released their winger Josh Walker playing his first senior game to race down the wing evading desperate tackles to go over for the try, no conversion.

Five minutes later Spartans had one of their chances of the game, they were awarded a scrum on Wednesbury's five metre line from the put in Spartans pushed the Wednesbury pack backwards allowing the number eight to pick the ball up and dive over the line for the try, no conversion.

Stanley Zvidi on the way to scoring for Wednesbury

The third quarter again was all Wednesbury they were dominant in the line out and scrum with John McGregor, Dave Hall, Aaron Harris and Lee and Jordan Allwood doing sterling work.

With seven minutes of the quarter gone it was Stanley Zvidi, once again using his terrific speed and agility he raced down the wing cutting into the midfield going over under the posts, Matt Dale added the conversion.

Then it was the turn of Wednesbury's hooker Josh Harris , he picked the ball up from the base of the ruck looped around crossing the line in the corner, no conversion.

Finally into the last quarter by this stage Wednesbury were comfortably in front and did take their foot off the gas but still managing to keep Spartans at bay. Very little happened during this period, but Wednesbury had the last word. With the clock running down Martin Beech received the ball and raced over the line for the try, no conversion.

This weekend Wednesbury start their league campaign with a game away to Church Stretton, kick-off 3pm.

MCAULEY EYES UP BRIGHTON

GARETH McAULEY is returning to full training this week as Albion target a clean bill of health for Saturday's trip to Brighton.

McAuley is the only doubt for that game following Jonny Evans' return to action for Northern Ireland.

Club doctor Mark Gillett said Albion took a 'marginal' but 'sensible' decision to leave Evans out. But with McAuley nearing a return, he hopes everybody will be available for selection.

"Gareth's done really well, he'll be back in training before Brighton," said Gillett. "We gave him a week off three weeks ago and he's worked really hard since then. We wanted to wait until he was 100 per cent."

McAuley has missed Northern Ireland's two World Cup qualifiers but Evans has featured in both after sitting out Albion's first four games of the season with a hamstring injury. The problem coincided with interest in Evans from other clubs, but Pulis dismissed suggestions the two were linked: "There's no way in a million years he's chucked one in, that not Jonny's way."

Evans has been rushed back too quickly before, and Gillett said a decision was made not to take a risk with their skipper.

"We didn't want to take a chance, even though he felt he was there or thereabouts," revealed the doctor. "It was a marginal decision; but the sensible decision was not to take a risk."

Pleased to see him come through two games for Northern Ireland, he expects the skipper to be back up to speed for the Baggies this weekend. "He came off in the first game in Hong Kong," said Gillett. "Up until then he's probably had a good a pre-season as he's ever had."

Pair get ready for their big boxing tests

Boxers Callum Smith, left, with Tommy Langford who have been sparring together

'THE Baggies Bomber' Tommy Langford and Callum Smith have renewed acquaintances in the ring as they prepare for their title tests ahead. The two have been sparring at Joe Gallagher's gym in Manchester as Smith prepares for the World Boxing Super Series.

Smith gets going against the also undefeated Erik Skoglund on September 16 at the Echo Arena in Liverpool. Langford is waiting on a date for a first defence of the British middleweight title, with Jack Arnfield ordered to be his challenger by the British Boxing Board of Control.

The fighting pride of West Bromwich Albion supporters and Baggies nut himself holds a victory over Smith, too, from when the two were amateurs.

Records of Slade's are hit for six

FORMER West Bromwich Dartmouth cricketer Doug Slade has had his named wiped from the Birmingham League record books twice in one day.

Slade previously held the records for most aggregate runs in a season (1,407) and most centuries in a season (seven) – both in 1978.

But Kiwi George Worker struck 145 for Knowle & Dorridge against Walsall on Saturday to surpass both of those feats – taking him to 1,445 runs and eight centuries. That result kept Walsall in trouble, despite remarkable figures of 8-55 for bowler Luke Stynes.

Pelsall remain on track for the Staffs Clubs Premier Division thanks to an 81-run win over Swindon.

Elsewhere, Aldridge were beaten by 68 runs by Cannock. Will Fleet (73) and Nick Trebilcock (43) helped Cannock to 212-6, Matt Robinson then claimed 7-40 as Aldridge were bowled out for 144.

Walsall YPF went down by two wickets to Whittington. Jono Allcock and Matt Stone took three wickets apiece to help dismiss YPF for 138 and 36 runs each for Alex Arnold and Rick Ashworth saw Whittington home.

Zain Shahid and Shahzab Raja both scored 107 as Highcroft & Great Barr totalled 287-3 in a draw with Beacon seconds (175-7). Asif Ali claimed 4-19.

Bloxwich bowler Connor Pitt destroyed Wightwick & Finchfield. Chasing the Bloxwich total of 168, Pitt returned 6-23 as the visitors were skittled for just 43.

Triathlete Reece is first home at just 17

BLACK Country Triathletes hosted their second annual Sprint Triathlon at Ounsdale Leisure Centre in Wombourne which included a 400m swim, a 20km bike & a 5km run. The overall male winner was Reece Ashfield, aged 17, in 55:36. Lee Moreton was 2nd, in 57:14. Lauren Evans picked up 2nd overall female in a time of 1:03:51.

Further afield in Zofingen, Rob Kennard took part in the ITU World Long Distance Duathlon Championships: a 10km run followed by a 150km bike and a further 30km run set in the Alps. Kennard finished in 8:43:25 placing him 82 overall and 8th in his age group.

★★★

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Thursday, September 7, 2017

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL

Staff, students and governors of Leasowes High School are delighted with the school's GCSE results this year and wish to congratulate students and staff for their tremendous efforts and commitment to improvement once again.

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE

Celebrating another great year of GCSE results.

The staff, students and governors at Leasowes High School are again celebrating a good year of examination results.

65% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and 60% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in Mathematics. The school has traditionally achieved a high English Baccalaureate score, and this has continued with 18% of the year 11 achieving this mark.

There have been some excellent individual performances including Nicole Ferro who achieved the top grade (9) in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics and 7 A* grades, including an amazing achievement of full marks in French and Resistant Materials, not losing a mark in either of these subjects. Other top performers include Daniel Harris (1 grade 9, 4 A*s, 2 As and a B), Ross Beacham (1 grade 9, 2 A*s, 3 As and a B), Kaitlin Marley (1 grade 8, 2 A*s, 5 As), Anna Robinson (1 grade 8, 2 A*s, 2 As and 2 Bs), Jacob Bannister (1 grade 8, 1 A*, 2 As and 3 Bs) and Kaitlin Brain (1 grade 8, 1 A*, 6 As).

Interim Headteacher, Matthew Mynott said *"We are extremely proud of what our students have achieved. The teachers have worked very closely with our students to maintain the academic standards for our school to Aspire and Achieve. This year has seen the school join the Invictus Education Trust and demonstrates that we are striving to further our academic excellence including the start of our Leasowes Invictus 6th form in September with some of these outstanding achievers. Congratulations must go to everyone concerned in their success."*

Emma Ray, Daniel Harris, Ross Beacham, Jacob Bannister, Rebecca Gardner, Alicia Adams, Aaron Mcleod

Top performer Nicole Ferro all A*+9 grades

LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS 2017

Open Evening tours:
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Tuesday 19th September
Thursday 21st September

Open Morning tours:
9.00am - 11.00am
Wednesday 20th September,
Friday 22nd September
Tuesday 26th September
Thursday 28th September

Tel: 01384 816285 Email: Openweek@leasowes.dudley.sch.uk Address: Kent Road, Halesowen, B62 8PJ Bus routes: 002, 9, 63, 140, 141, 241

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ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE

LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL

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Birmingham City Ladies Captain Visits Leasowes

Some of Leasowes' talented footballers were delighted when Kerys Harrop, Birmingham City Ladies captain, recently visited the school. Students were able to spend time with her picking up some useful advice and asking her many questions about her experience with the local WSL side and her own international experiences.

PE teacher Emma Roden said, "The visit was an inspiration for many of our students, particularly the girls. We already have some strong teams playing girls football for the school and hopefully this will encourage even more to participate. Kerys is a fantastic role model, demonstrating just what can be done with hard work and commitment."

Formula 1 in Schools Central Regional Champions

F1 in Schools, the Formula 1 supported global STEM challenge, is an education programme that has established itself as one of the premier competitions, that not only offers students an engaging and exciting learning experience, it also gives participants a head start on a career path for motorsport, Formula 1 and allied engineering industry.

Eight Leasowes students competed at this years Central regional F1 In Schools final. Two teams of four students were selected from year 9 Design & Technology GCSEgroups. The teams designed their cars using C.A.D software 'Autodesk Inventor' and manufactured them using 3D printing technology.
On race day the two teams submitted a design portfolio of work, they were interviewed by design engineers, the cars were scrutinised ensuring they met a strict dimension specification and they gave a 5 minute presentation to a team of F1 engineers. Go to the school website or the link below for images and a video clip of the day.

www.leasowes.dudley.sch.uk/general/F1inschools.asp

TEAM 1: ALCEDO AT THIS:
Daniel Norman, James Moore, Jack Sullivan & Cameron Zarelli
Awards won:
Regional Champion 2017
Fastest Car
Presentation award

TEAM 2: DOMINATION:
Ali Malic, Brynn Cobane, Spencer Bourne & Kristian Povey
Awards won:
Portfolio award
Future stars award

Lewis Hamilton at the F1 in School event

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D A BRIGHTER FUTURE...
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LEASOWES HIGH SCHOOL

Leasowes Students Soar to New Heights

Five Design & Technology year 8 students entered into the Royal Air Force STEM Glider Challenge 2017.

The competition was at RAF Cosford Museum, with 15 teams from the Midlands taking part. The challenge was to design and manufacture a foam board gilder using skills from the STEM subjects. Students were assessed throughout the day on the following:

- 5 minute verbal presentation
- Interview with RAF engineers
- Team challenge
- Graphic Design
- Flight of the foam board glider
- Portfolio of work
- The winning students, Samuel Nikolic , Joe south, Edward Jeynes, Jamil Abdulah and Hasan Khan were delighted that their hard work paid off, "We have worked as a team for about six weeks to design and develop a glider which travels as far as possible. The gliders were regularly tested in the sports hall using a launcher we manufactured. We also had to design a team logo, create a portfolio of work and prepare for the verbal presentation. The skills we have learnt in Design & Technology and the other STEM subjects really helped us to win the competition! We won three trophies, including overall winners and each member of the team won a large range of RAF products and merchandise."

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Delight Students

Fifty Leasowes students have worked tirelessly this year to achieve their first Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Students have to complete a number of tasks covering volunteering in the local community, skills-based activities and two physical expeditions. The culmination of the award included 2 days of hiking and camping over The Long Mynd in Shropshire where students were assessed on their map reading, team work and self-sufficiency skills. Typically they endured two extremes of weather with persistent rain on day one and heat and sunshine on day 2.

Chris Bennett, Lead D of E Co-ordinator at Leasowes commented, "All of the students coped extremely well in the varying weather conditions. Their resilience and determination is to be applauded. More students than ever will be taking part next year and many of this year's students will now go on to complete their silver award next year."

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CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Aspire and Achieve at Leasowes

Leasowes High School is an ambitious, hardworking and successful school. It has as its motto, 'ASPIRE AND ACHIEVE', and this emphasises the approach that the school takes to the education of its students and their success.

The students are encouraged to have the aspiration to be the best and are supported with traditional approaches to help them succeed. Respect, discipline, and an enjoyment of learning underpin our desire to equip students with the knowledge, skills and resilience to fulfil their productive lives.

Opportunities abound for our students in leadership. Each department recruits subject ambassadors to enhance learning; Peer Mentors are active in transition and support; Student Council representatives provide an active voice for their fellow learners; Students aspire to be part of the Prefect team, led by the Head Girl and Head Boy. Furthermore, extra-curricular activities for our students range from the award winning STEM club, drama and music through to the Science Crest Team and an ever growing Strategic board games club. The PE and sports curriculum and clubs are able to use our brand new astroturf facility.

The Pastoral care provided by the school is excellent. Parents regularly comment that their child is safe at school (99% agree in 2016/17 questionnaire) and that behaviour is calm and industrious on a daily basis. The students wear their uniform with pride and much of this is founded in our strong team of year heads, pastoral managers, form tutors, attendance officer and school nurse who ensure that our children are safe, happy and have every opportunity to thrive.

Leasowes is an over-subscribed academy within the Invictus Education Trust, working with a strong multi academy group of schools, with a 6th form opening in September, facing a future with great excitement and confidence and a desire to Aspire and Achieve.

NEW SIXTH FORM OPENS 2017

September 2017 sees the opening of Leasowes Sixth Form, an additional campus to the Invictus Education Trust multi-site provision.

Sixth Form break out and study area

Amongst other subjects this year, students will be studying biology, chemistry, drama, psychology, French and history although an array of other subjects can be studied as part of the multi-site provision. A brand new sixth form common room (pictured) and study area has been created with a suite of computers for use in private study.

Leasowes 6th form students will also have the opportunity to partake in a range of enrichment activities, including studying for an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), completing mentoring courses to help develop younger students in the school and volunteering at the local Gower Gardens residential care home located next to the school. Furthermore, students will have access to the fabulous on-site facilities, including fitness suite, gym, sports hall and our new 3G Astro Pitches.

Head of 6th Form, Mrs Lucy Ridley said, "It is an exciting venture, which we hope will inspire all pupils both at Leasowes and the surrounding schools. In 2018 we hope to add yet more subjects to the curriculum to satisfy increasing demand."

Anyone interested in joining the Leasowes 6th Form can collect a prospectus from school. An Open Evening for all Invictus 6th Forms will be held at Himley Hall on Thursday 2nd November.

Talented Students Wow Audience

Talented students at Leasowes High School presented a magical family performance of 'A Spoonful of Sugar' in the Main Theatre during Spring Term. Set in Edwardian London in 1910, the heart-warming story followed the Banks' family and the mysterious arrival of Mary Poppins who brings happiness into the lives of all she meets.

"A Spoonful of Magic from Leasowes" School Production 2017

Students had been working on the production since auditions in July 2016. Students demonstrated the utmost dedication and thrived on the opportunity to develop their talents in the many areas of the arts. A wide variety of year groups were involved ranging from years 7-11. For many students, this was their first production.

The stage design overcame the challenges faced regarding the swift changes in location and revealed the social, cultural and historical context of London. The beautiful setting of Cherry Tree Lane was brought to life, scene transitions were swift and the audience boundaries were broken where they were made to feel part of the action. The costumes beautifully reflected the period and reinforced the contrast between class and reality vs the imaginary. Art and Design students dedicated numerous hours to the creation of the set design and props which all contributed immensely to the fiction..

The music was everything that one expected, containing well-loved songs where performers were accompanied by the talented Leasowes Live Student Band. Both children and adults were singing along to the classics of "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious", "Let's Go Fly a Kite", "Chim Chim Cher-ee" and "A Spoonful of Sugar" sung at an accomplished level by the lead actors. Key moments included Caitlin O'Connor's dynamic delivery of 'Sister Sufragette', Ava McDonald's beautiful realisation of 'Stay Awake' and "Feed the Birds" performed as an entertaining duet by Rugile Senavaityte and Martha Jinks.

The dance routines had the audiences' feet tapping with striking routines. Spectacular moments included a solo ballet piece by Jasmin Graham and the demanding movements of "Step in Time" reinforced the high levels of talent on the stage.

Moments of magic were brought to life by the ensemble who adopted multi-functional roles with conviction to set the scene. Actors demanded the attention of the audience and created the fiction successfully. The theme of childhood was emphasised by mesmerising performances from Conor Taylor as Michael Banks and Chloe Dunkley as Jane Banks. Bert the Sweep played by Oliver Wall demonstrated the charm, fun and energy that the role required. Joshua Stephenson gave a superb performance as George Banks whose transformational journey provided a dramatic edge. Caitlin O'Connor presented a charming performance as Mrs Banks accompanied well by Fern Herbert playing an overworked Ellen and Neeijha Robinson adopting the role of the long-suffering Cook. Believable performances were delivered by Jack O'Mahony as the Constable, Angela Turner as Katie Nanna and Mert Oksuzoglu as Jnr Dawes. Callum McIntyre's performance as Senior Dawes captivated the audience by his stage presence, creating an element of humour. Ava McDonald's realisation of Mary Poppins found a place in every child's heart, where her enigmatic, endearing performance was faultless.

The Arts Department continues to offer students many experiences at Leasowes High School that stay with students throughout their lifetime.

March 2018 - "Peter Pan!"

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